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Pair suspected of wiretapping remanded for six more days

RAINE MARCUS

TWO private investigators suspected of illegally tapping the phones, cellular phones, and faxes of journalists and politicians were remanded for another six days by Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday.

The two, Rafi Friedan and [illegible] Tsur, are still not cooperating with police. Though detectives have questioned several people in the case, they are apparently no nearer to discovering who ordered the wiretapping.

In extending the remand of the two, Judge Miriam Sokolov ruled that police have concrete evidence against them and that their release may disrupt the investigation.

Tsur and Friedan, owners of the Agam investigations company, have for the past year been [illegible] monitoring device capable [illegible] several cellular [illegible] simultaneously. The [illegible] machine is manufactured [illegible] Telecom and is not [illegible] sale here, but only to [illegible] services abroad. It was confiscated by police.

[illegible] sources said that ECI [illegible] given the pair the [illegible] experimentation purposes [illegible] that the two used the [illegible] longer than needed just [illegible] other sources said the [illegible] given the machine in exchange for investigations they conducted for ECI, whose principals [illegible] abroad and are expected [illegible] questioned on their return.

The machine was apparently [illegible] at Agam's unmarked [illegible] office, because the [illegible] height provided good [illegible].

By law, those conducting illegal wiretapping may be sentenced to a maximum one year in prison, while the maximum sentence for clients ordering such services is three years' imprisonment.

[illegible] are scrutinizing office [illegible] computers in the hope of [illegible] who paid for Friedan [illegible] services. However, a [illegible] expressed doubt [illegible] this, since the [illegible] clients probably used [illegible] "did not pay [illegible] checks."

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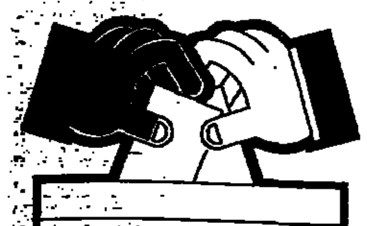
SA elections begin; 4,000 people vote here

BATSHEVA TSUR



SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS 1994

THOUSANDS of South African citizens living here lined up for several hours yesterday to cast absentee ballots in the first all-race elections in that country's history.

The more than 4,000 voters who gathered at the single polling booth in the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds joined almost one million absentee South African voters around the world, and the elderly, infirm and pregnant in South Africa itself in the first day of voting.

Today and tomorrow, the vast majority of South African citizens will be casting their ballots, most of them – including ANC leader Nelson Mandela – enjoying the right for the first time in their lives.

Mandela held a press conference yesterday and was flooded with questions that only presidents have to answer. When asked about Israel, he said, "I had expected to visit Israel this year," but he added he could not do so until a peace agreement was signed there.

In Israel, no stickers for the Inkatha Party were available yesterday because of that party's late entry into the elections, South African Ambassador Malcolm Ferguson said. "By agreement with Inkatha, provision was made for the writing in of their name by hand and this was advertised inside the polling booth," Ferguson said.

Voters and polling officials alike were stunned by the huge number of people who came to vote in Tel Aviv. "It is beyond our expectations," said Ferguson, who had earlier noted there were some 10,000 eligible voters in Israel. "We've put in extra processing facilities and have 60 polling officers instead of 23," he said in the early afternoon after the crowd had moved at snail's pace.

"The turnout is overwhelming," said Teresita Cabrera, a UN observer who hails from the Phillipines. "It's non-stop," agreed her co-observer, Bo Largergren from Sweden. "But there have been no problems."

Former South African Jews living in Israel, large numbers of youth of all denominations studying or visiting here, tourists, yeshiva students, kibbutzniks and members of visiting delegations all inched their way in an orderly fashion to the polling booth where they were tested with a phosphorescent substance to ensure they had not voted earlier. Then they cast two votes: national and provincial.

South African citizens gather at the polling booth in the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

Half way between the end of the line and the polling booth and looking totally unruffled, Maureen MacDonald of Durban, in her fifties, said: "I've been in line for four hours so far. I'm prepared to stand another few hours for our country. We are praying for peace. It's thrilling to see so many young people voting."

"Long overdue. This should have happened at the turn of the century," said 85-year-old Hettie Broido of Jerusalem, who immigrated 32 years ago. "I am pleased to have the possibility of registering my vote on behalf of change in South Africa. I certainly hope it will be a peaceful process."

"I'd have liked, at this crucial time when history is being made, to be in South Africa," confessed 25-year-old Mawetu Ntila from Soweto, a physicist who came here with an ANC delegation to study agricultural methods. But Ntila also expressed trepidation for the near future. "People have been repressed and deprived too long. Now they are expecting too much of the new government. They think they'll get houses, cars, education. I'm afraid it's going to take a while."

"It's a great feeling to vote. Our ancestors dreamed of this," said Hilary Oosterdorf, a journalist from the "non-white" Grassy Park suburb of Cape Town. But she expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of information in Israel regarding the various parties. "People have taken the time and trouble to come and vote but the authorities haven't made the effort. After all, the results will be a watershed for South Africa."

At the opposite end of the pole was another tourist, John Smuts, 25, of Cape Town. Smuts had arrived at the station with a South African flag draped over his shoulders. The monitors made him remove it.

"I reckon the ANC will come in," Smuts said, "but I'm hoping for the Nats [De Klerk's National Party]. I'm voting NP. But even if there's violence in South Africa, I'll remain there. It's my country."

Free at last, Page 5

Former ANC activist vindicated

THOMAS O'DWYER

FOR one former South African woman, yesterday's voting in Tel Aviv was more than a dream come true. It was the end of a nightmare.

Esther Levitan is the only Jewish grandmother to have been condemned to indefinite solitary confinement without trial in Johannesburg's notorious John Vorster Square top security prison for her ANC activism.

Hospitalized after three months of relentless interrogation, Levitan, now in her sixties, was hounded out of her native South Africa in 1982 – stripped of her citizenship and sent into exile. Britain granted her first refuge and then she came to Israel in 1984.

After 12 years, and at the 11th hour before the all-race elections, her citizenship and voting rights were restored following an intervention on her behalf by *The Jerusalem Post.*

"Oh yes, oh yes, I voted all right, thanks to you," she said last night. "I was not so much crying as triumphant. I was not just voting, I was marching right up there to storm the barricades."

The *Post* recently interviewed Levitan for a feature story about her ordeal in the jaws of apartheid, and later brought her case to the personal attention of South African Ambassador Malcolm Ferguson.

Levitan had complained in the interview that after her lifelong struggle for black rights, she would be unable to vote in the historic election without re-establishing residency in South Africa.

Ferguson said she was mistaken and asked her to go immediately to the embassy. Yesterday morning Levitan called the *Post* and, close to tears with excitement, said she had just received "a shiny new passport and the right to vote" from the embassy.

"It was a vindication," Levitan said. "A kind of justice after all their hundreds of years and after all our own years.

"I have been in jail, I have been a refugee, a non-citizen. Apartheid is over. A new era is being born."

The full story of Levitan's life will be published in *The Jerusalem Post Magazine* on Friday.

Rabin, Arafat, Christopher summit possible

DAVID MAKOVSKY in Moscow and news agencies

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin may meet PLO leader Yasser Arafat and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher in a Cairo summit later this week, according to sources in Cairo.

Arafat is expected to meet Christopher in Cairo today in an attempt to expedite negotiations on Palestinian self-rule, PLO officials said yesterday.

Arafat is also likely to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Channel 1 yesterday that he might go to Cairo tomorrow to meet with Arafat, "but no decision has been made yet." He said he and Rabin had decided they would wait two or three days to see what progress is being made in the negotiations. "If there is enough progress, I will travel to Cairo on Thursday."

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators played down hopes they would conclude talks this week and sign an agreement on Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The two sides were hoping to finish their talks in time for Rabin and Arafat to sign a final agreement in the first week of May.

However, statements by Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shahak and the PLO's Nabil Sha'ath reversed earlier optimism about an early signing.

"There is a long list of issues that still need answers. I don't think it will end this week," Shahak said. "If we don't finish, we will come here next week."

Shahak said negotiators are concluding talks on two major obstacles, security and legal jurisdiction in the self-rule zones. Sha'ath said he could not discuss a dispute on freeing Palestinian prisoners as "we are making progress."

Christopher was in Geneva yesterday and was expected to fly to Saudi Arabia to start a Middle East tour.

In Moscow, Russian President Boris Yeltsin pledged that his country would play a constructive role in the peace talks, and would seek to improve its coordination with the US, Rabin told Israeli reporters last night.

Rabin said he thought Yeltsin sounded genuinely interested in not harming the peace talks, but said he would wait to see if the Russians stick by their promise.

"It was my impression that he said: 'Unlike the past, Russia has an interest in peace, security, and stability in the Middle East.' I note the term 'unlike the past' is not mine."

Rabin added: "There is also a Russian desire to cooperate more with the US in the Middle East – and not just the Middle East. If this really happens, I'll see it as a very important position. Yeltsin did not hide that they have interests in Arab and Moslem countries. I appreciated that he said this, just as I emphasized that we have a special relationship with the US."

He suggested that the Russian leaders accepted his view that the bulk of Arab-Israel negotiations should fall on the two sides engaged in the conflict and not the co-sponsors, Washington and Moscow.

Meanwhile, an Israeli delegation left last night for a first-ever visit to Qatar where Middle East arms control talks will be held next week, Channel 1 reported.

Four senior officials from the Foreign and Defense ministries flew to Egypt on their way to the Gulf. Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin's chief aide Shlomo Gur headed the delegation, the report said.

PLO, Hamas have same long-term goals – Barak

EVELYN GORDON

THE PLO and Hamas have the same long-term goals with respect to Israel, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak told the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee yesterday.

"In my opinion, we are talking about two faces of the [Palestinian] national movement, whose long-term goals are very similar in everything connected to us," he said. "But they have different approaches regarding how to achieve [these goals]."

Surprisingly, none of the seven MKs at the meeting reacted to this statement, according to a Knesset official who was present.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we see Hamas people integrated into the various [administrative] systems in Gaza and Jericho," Barak continued, citing institutions such as schools and mosques in particular.

"Together with this, I also wouldn't be surprised to see a different branch of Hamas trying to continue terror activity," he added. "But as a rule, I think [the PLO] will have an incentive to prove that terror has decreased in the areas under their responsibility. This is an important test for them, and they will put pressure on Hamas to lessen its activity in Gaza and Jericho, because this will give substance to their political claims: that the areas given to them are being run relatively peacefully, and they therefore want to expand [those areas].

"Therefore, the Palestinians will have an incentive to foil all terrorist activity, and I think they will try to do so," he concluded.

In response to a question by MK Ariel Sharon (Likud) as to how the army would deal with terrorists who fled into PLO-controlled areas, Barak said the Palestinian police would be expected to handle these cases. If this didn't work, however, "we will have to think about how to solve the problem from a military perspective, and then the political level will decide."

Two MKs, Ephraim Sneh (Labor) and Moshe Nissim (Likud), attacked the army's restraint in South Lebanon.

"The feeling is that not enough is being done on the offensive front," Sneh said.

In response, Barak said the army is now trying "to strengthen the offensive component" of its activities in south Lebanon. However, he added, the government's primary goal is keeping the quiet in northern Israel, and that is being achieved.

Several MKs – including coalition members – asked for information on the army's plans for a possible withdrawal in Syria.

"Going on the assumption that there will be hasty negotiations with Syria," said Haggai Merom (Labor), "has the army been asked to prepare military answers for the different options?"

Barak confirmed the IDF had started working on such scenarios.

Two Israeli Arabs among 29 suspects in Hadera blast

YIGAL KOTZER and agencies

TWO Israeli Arabs were among the 29 suspects arrested for involvement in the April 13 suicide bombing in the Hadera central bus station in which five Israelis were killed and 29 wounded, it was revealed yesterday.

Atef Kabaha, 46, is suspected of driving bomber Amar Amrana to the bus station, and Majed Kabaha, 48, of conspiracy. Both are from West Barta'a, the Israeli half of a village that straddles the Green Line in the Wadi Ara area.

The 27 other suspects, thought to be members of a Hamas cell, are from East Barta'a and nearby Yabad in Samaria. Among them, according to the IDF, was Mohammed Said Badrana, 24, of Yabad, who allegedly made the two bombs the terrorist carried. One, strapped to his body, blew up on the bus, and the other, with a time-delay fuse, was meant to wreak havoc among the bystanders and rescue teams. The second bomb, however, was discovered and exploded harmlessly.

This group is also suspected of being responsible, along with another person recruited for the task, for placing an explosive device on an Egged bus which was carrying residents to the settlement of Shaked in Samaria. There were no casualties or property damage in that attack on March 17.

The arrest of the two Kabahas came to light after Haifa Magistrates Court Judge Yosef Elron canceled the ban on publication of information about their case he had issued at their remand hearing three days ago, two days after their arrest. Their remand was extended by 12 days.

Itim reporter Meir Shoshani had requested the ban be lifted, arguing that it had already been violated and information about the arrests had appeared in the media. The two suspects' lawyer wanted the ban maintained, arguing that news of the arrests could cause harm to all Israeli Arabs.

Their lawyer also appealed to Haifa District Court, asking it to order his clients released. He told Judge Micha Lindenstrauss he had not been allowed to meet with his clients or to see the request for remand filed with the lower court.

Atef Kabaha had testified at his remand hearing that he made his living by driving people and that the evening before the bombing a man had called asking if he could take him to Hadera.

"I went to his house at 8:45 and honked for him. Another driver pulled up, but I told him I got there first and I was taking the man to Hadera. I took the man to the market in Hadera and he gave me a NIS 50 bill and I gave him NIS 10 change. I didn't mean to do anything wrong; I had no idea who the man was," Kabaha said.

Majed Kabaha, who is accused of arranging the terrorist's ride to Hadera, told the court he had no idea what he is suspected of having done.

"I'm proud that I live in the State of Israel," he said, "and I am a loyal citizen. I have no time for Arab nonsense because I have five kids at home. On the day of the bombing, I was at the orthopedist's in Kafr Kara. And I need to take my wife for an eye examination at the hospital in Afula, and my son for an examination at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv."

Judge Lindenstrauss is to hear their appeal tomorrow.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Walid Sadek (Meretz) said he was shocked by the arrest of the two Israeli Arab taxi drivers from Barta'a. "I refused to believe it and hope that the investigation shows they were not involved."

Barta'a is divided down the middle by the Green Line but is united by family ties. Everyone in the village east and west has the same last name, Kabha. Consequently, relations between Israeli citizens and militant anti-Israel Palestinians are especially fluid.

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report

Dollar finally tops NIS 3 mark

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE dollar broke through the NIS 3 mark yesterday, signaling the Bank of Israel's intention to let the shekel devalue after holding its value steady since the beginning of the year.

The shekel lost 0.4 percent to the dollar, reaching NIS 3.007.

Since the beginning of the year, the dollar has several times come a few thousandths of a point short of breaching the NIS 3 mark.

What may have tipped the balance at the central bank this time is the realization that keeping the exchange rate frozen did not help to keep inflation down, said Jonathan Katz, head of Economic Modeling and Forecasting.

Moreover, the policy raised the ire of industrialists, who claim that an overvalued shekel reduces their competitiveness by making their exports more expensive, while making imports cheaper.

Katz pointed out that first quarter trade figures bear this out, as exports rose more moderately than expected and imports continued growing at a relatively fast pace.

Katz believes that export underperformance, combined with the expected closure-related slowdown in the economy, convinced the Bank of Israel of the necessity to let the shekel devalue so as not to impinge on economic growth.

Resuming the gradual devaluation of the shekel was also required to maintain the credibility of the central bank's "creeping peg" exchange rate policy, said Katz.

Under that policy, the Bank of Israel set a devaluation goal of 6 percent against the basket of currencies for this year. However, "the Bank of Israel's credibility has eroded since the first quarter of 1993, by consistently keeping the exchange rate 2 percent below the midpoint of the exchange rate band," said Katz. "I don't think it wants its credibility to be eroded further."

Ptahya Bar-Shavit, Bank Hapoalim's chief economist, said that as long as the Bank of Israel wants to devalue the shekel, it is unlikely that interest rates will rise, since high interest rates will depress the demand for foreign currency necessary to devalue the shekel. High shekel interest rates will make holding lower yielding foreign currencies unattractive.

Bar-Shavit estimates that the central bank will allow the shekel to devalue up to the midpoint of the "creeping peg" or slightly above it. He added that he does not expect a run on the dollar, since the public is not expecting a dramatic devaluation of the shekel.

27041000

Dimona man shot dead in fight over parking space

RAINE MARCUS

AN argument over a parking space ended in murder yesterday when a Netanya resident shot 40-year-old Raymond Nevet to death.

Dimona resident Nevet had arrived with his wife and son for an engagement party at his wife's family's home in the city's Kiryat Nordau section and was parking his car when he was approached by another resident of the building.

A verbal argument over the parking space escalated into a fracas, and the building resident pulled out his licensed pistol and shot Nevet once in the chest.

A policeman in the area heard a gunshot and alerted additional forces. Magen David Adom personnel took him to Laniado Hospital, but Nevet died of his wound.

Police arrested the man, an artist, who allegedly shot Nevet. He is cooperating with police and will appear in court for a remand hearing tomorrow.

259 dead in Japan airplane crash

NAGOYA (AP) – A Taiwanese airplane carrying 271 people crashed and burned at a central Japan airport last night, killing at least 259 and narrowly missing a nearby housing area.

Seven hours after the China Airlines A300-600R Airbus went down, airport officials said two people remained missing and 10 were being treated in hospitals.

The plane, coming from Taiwan, crashed near the airport's runway.

Full story, Page 5

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Yeltsin offers Rabin more defense cooperation

DAVID MAKOVSKY

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Boris Yeltsin yesterday suggested that Israel and Russia develop defense cooperation. But Prime Minister Rabin deferred the issue, fearing this might arouse longstanding US concerns about improper Israeli transfer of US technology to third countries.

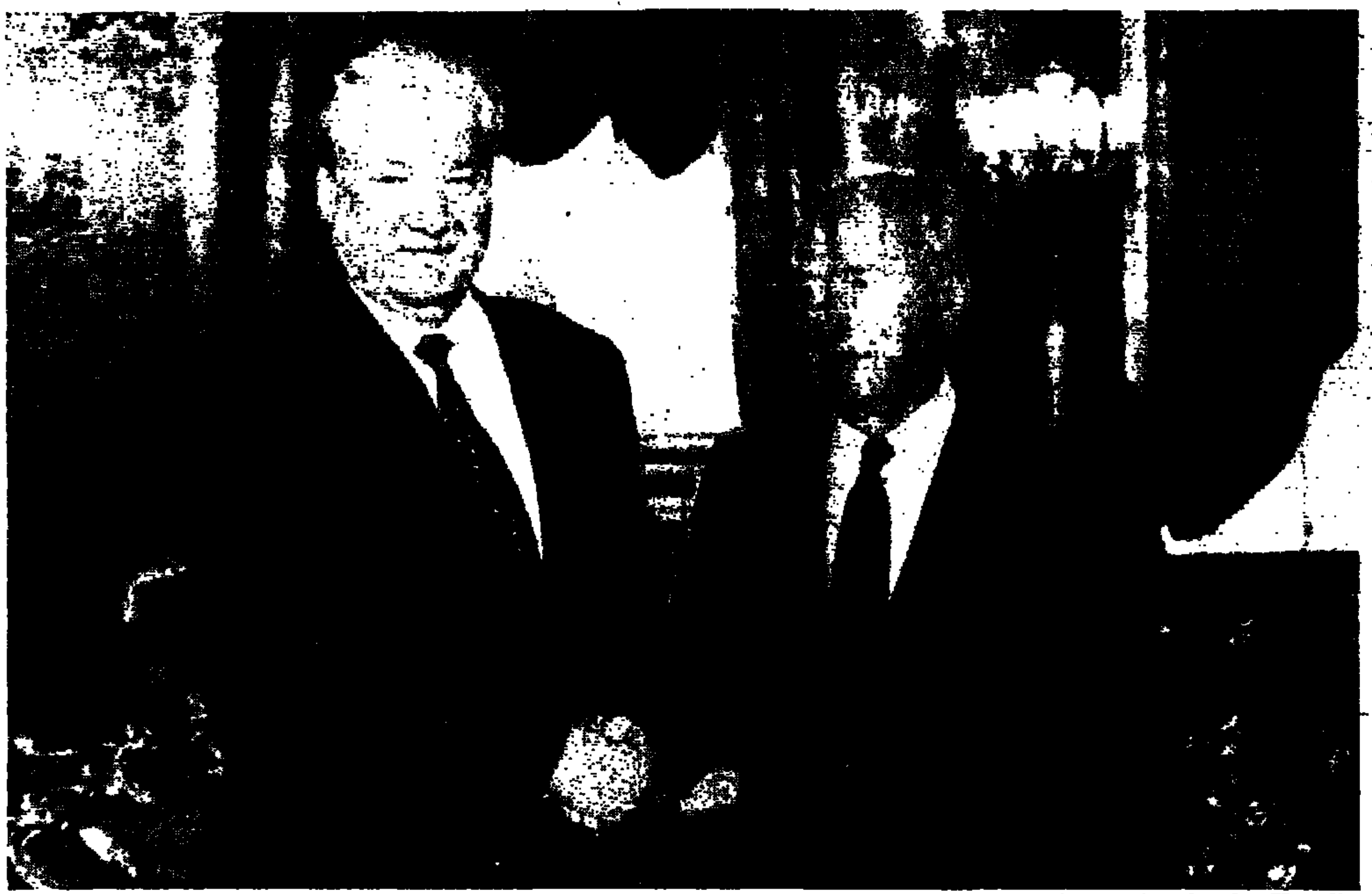
In the same Kremlin conversation, Yeltsin and Rabin agreed that Islamic militancy could negatively impact on both countries. It appears that officials of both countries have already been holding quiet conversations on this issue.

According to Rabin advisers who participated in the meeting, Yeltsin said he shared Israel's concern about Iran, declaring: "We are keen on separating between Iran and central Asian countries" to defuse the potential momentum of Islamic extremism.

Briefing Israeli reporters at Russia's official guest house in Moscow last night, Rabin preferred to be diplomatic in describing Yeltsin's response. "My words about Islamic extremism did not exactly fall on deaf ears," he said.

Rabin cited Yeltsin as saying ": 'On the issue of defense cooperation, I am even willing to reach an agreement with you.' We did not get into details. We are tied on defense issues very centrally to the United States." Therefore, Rabin said in his follow-up meeting yesterday with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev "it was decided that we would just now get acquainted."

However, he noted that this summer Moscow will be sending a military attache to Tel Aviv for the first time, and follow-up conversations will be held.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shakes hands with Russian President Boris Yeltsin during their meeting in the Kremlin yesterday. (AP)

In an unusual gesture of friendship, Rabin was accorded an opportunity to speak with a few hundred senior Russian military officers at the Russian Military Academy, where he gave a briefing on the region.

After a day of delay, the two sides yesterday agreed to sign a preliminary trade accord, something that Moscow has been pressing for. However, Israel has been seeking exemptions on Russian imports to protect selected industries, and it was agreed that a bilateral panel will be set up to discuss these issues.

In his meeting with the Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev yesterday, Rabin asked about the status of Russians who live in non-Russian republics, referring to Israel's quandary in deciding how to deal with Israeli settlers in the future. It is estimated that there are 25 million Russians living in these republics. When he asked Kozyrev how Moscow intends to deal with these "Russian settlers," he said Kozyrev told him "we have not found a solution, we have no territorial claims on these territories but we are considering a solution that would offer dual citizenship." Rabin asked: "Could this be implemented in the Middle East?"

Perhaps in a sign of the changing relations between the two countries, it should be noted that Israel's military attache in Moscow since last summer is Col.Mikhail Stieglitz, the brother of Avital Sharansky.

NEWSLINE

with Dr. YA'AKOV ULANO

Dr. Ulano is a surgeon at Laniado Hospital in Netanya

Unlike all other public hospitals in the country, your hospital's doctors did not strike because the rabbi who founded Laniado insisted that a no-strike clause be built into everyone's contract. Would you have walked off the job if you worked at another public hospital?

I believe a doctor is obligated to his patients. However, if I worked at a hospital where everyone went on strike, I think I would too – but only if it was certain that no patient's health were jeopardized.

In the US, from which you immigrated 12 years ago, are strikes by physicians as common as here?

The medical system is completely different there. In the US, most doctors are self-employed, while the rest work for individual hospitals, where strikes are rare. The teaching hospitals are publicly owned, and salaries there are low, but doctors work there because they are university-affiliated; the staff are willing to get low wages to enjoy the high academic level and challenges. But once they go into private practise, their income skyrockets. Here, this possibility is almost non-existent, as most positions are available only in the public sector, where the salaries are almost universally low.

How low are they? The Israel Medical Association claims that hospital doctors' per-hour wage is below that of nurses, while the nurses say this calculation leaves out "many extras" that doctors earn.

It's impossible to support a family on a hospital doctor's salary – which ranges from the equivalent of $1,000 to $1,200. Several years ago, doctors working in health fund community clinics earned less than hospital doctors, but this has changed. Hospital doctors are forced to moonlight at night for the health funds or have a private practise. The advantages to working in a hospital are that a doctor is challenged by the most difficult cases for which he was trained and is in an academic atmosphere. But the pay is abysmally low.

Perhaps forced arbitration is the way to end all the strikes that plague the health sector?

Maybe, but I'm not an expert in that. The bottom line is that the government and society must understand that doctors fill a very important role and deserve to be compensated for their training and efforts.

Judy Siegel

Families of Afula bomb victims demand official inquiry into attack

BILL HUTMAN and news agencies

MICHEL Elharar, holding a picture of his slain daughter, sat across from the Prime Minister's Office yesterday, hoping to get some straight answers from the government about his daughter's death in the Afula car-bomb attack.

"Maya's death was not our private loss, but a tragedy that must cause the entire country to stand up and demand action from the government," Elharar said.

His 17-year-old daughter was one of seven persons killed in the bombing by Hamas last month. Yesterday, Elharar and three other families of those killed in Afula came to Jerusalem to hold a protest vigil across from the Prime Minister's Office.

The families demanded the government establish a commission of inquiry, similar to the one set up after the Hebron massacre, to look into the bombing.

They charged that not enough was done to prevent the attack, despite the security forces expecting such an attack would take place.

"The guilty parties must take be forced to take responsibility," Elharar said. The Ben-Moshe, Mordechi, and Atiya families are also participating in the vigil, which they said would continue until their demands are met.

"We are not asking for an end to the peace talks," said Jaquelyn Atiya, whose husband, Asher, was the bus driver killed in the bombing.

"We just don't want to be told we are part of some underworld, where revenge killings are an acceptable thing," Atiya said.

Ahuva Cohen Onalla, 37, the eighth victim of the attack who died Monday, was buried yesterday in Ashkelon after her husband, an Israeli Arab, agreed to let her be buried in a Jewish cemetery. She had converted to Islam a month ago.

Her husband, Adel Onallah, did not attend the funeral.

"I don't want anyone to say any ugly word. I want her to have a quiet funeral," he said before she was buried. "I don't want to create a stir. The attack was carried out by an Arab, and it's still fresh in people's minds."

Onallah said he saw his wife's parents, the Cohens, at the hospital on Sunday, when his wife's condition was deteriorating.

"They came and requested that if she dies, she be buried in a Jewish ceremony," Onallah said. His wife had converted to Islam a month before the attack to marry him. Onallah said he agreed to the request, on condition that he be allowed to visit the grave later. "They appreciated what I did. They shook my hand," Onallah said.

US threatens sanctions against El Al for denying airline permission to fly NY-TA route

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

THE US is threatening to suspend three weekly El Al New York-to-Tel Aviv flights due to a dispute between Israel and an American airline.

In a complaint filed Friday, the US Department of Transportation accused El Al and the Israeli government of violating a 1978 bilateral agreement by denying World Airways permission to operate between the two countries.

"Since there is an open skies program between Israel and the US, it should be 1-2-3, a formality, in terms of acquiring authority from the Israeli government to fly," said Marc Apter, spokesman for World Airways, a 45-year-old, Virginia-based charter company.

Israel is charged with protectionism on El Al's behalf by preventing World Airways from entering the Israeli market.

Apter called "totally frivolous" Israel's claim that it denied the application due to World's financial difficulties.

Although it lost money in 1993, the airline earned $27 million in the first quarter of this year, he said.

Because the airline intends to fly the route three times a week, it requested what it calls "eye-for-an-eye" sanctions against El Al. It has until Friday to reply, but company officials yesterday refused to comment on the complaint.

12 hurt as Abu Kabir inmates set fire to their mattresses

RAINE MARCUS

ELEVEN inmates at Tel Aviv's Abu Kabir lock-up and one policeman suffering from smoke inhalation were taken to hospitals yesterday after inmates protesting conditions torched their cell.

Magen David Adom ambulances and intensive care units evacuated the heavily-guarded injured inmates to Ichilov and Beilinson hospitals.

The incident started at 6:30 p.m. when four inmates in a cell housing 12 on the second floor set fire to their mattresses, apparently protesting their cramped and crowded conditions. Inmates are allowed matches or a lighter in their cells.

Eighteen months ago, Police Minister Moshe Shahal described conditions at the lock-up as "unbearable" and said they "must be rectified immediately."

There are 20 percent more inmates than beds at the lock-up, and inmates serving short sentences or awaiting trial often stay in Abu Kabir because of the lack of room in jails.

Many awaiting space in the jails sleep on the floor at Abu Kabir, and do not enjoy the same conditions and privileges as their counterparts in Prisons Service jails.

Although there is a government budget for the building of new jails, most mayors are protesting their construction in regions under their jurisdiction.

Israel Radio reported that firefighters called to the lock-up had difficulty reaching the blaze. At first prisoners swore at and taunted them, blocking their way to the fire.

Soldier kills knife-wielding Palestinian

Hamas displays Shahar Simani's identity card

JON IMMANUEL

A SOLDIER at a military checkpoint in Hebron yesterday shot dead a Palestinian laborer who pulled a knife, military sources said, but local Palestinians disputed the army's account of the shooting.

Two Hebron men, among others claiming to be eyewitnesses, maintained that Kamil Oridat, 35, had not pulled a knife when he was shot, and may even have been unarmed. No soldiers were wounded in the incident.

Mahmoud Khatib and Abu Rifai Silah, a candy vendor, claimed they saw the incident in the busy downtown business area, and said that Oridat, a resident of Dahariye, married with children, was shot by a soldier they described as short and stout. He was known in the area during the past several weeks for being rough with local people, they said.

Other witnesses said that about 30 minutes after the shooting, a tall officer in a red beret came in a jeep and placed a knife beside the body and drove away.

Military sources said the IDF is checking different accounts of the incident.

Angry Palestinians, under the impression that Oridat was shot in cold blood, clashed with soldiers despite a curfew imposed on the town center.

Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, Hamas distributed a leaflet proving it was responsible for the death of soldier Shahar Simani last week, after doubts from police about the authenticity of phone calls and previous leaflets taking responsibility for his death.

The leaflet distributed in the name of Izzadin Kassam, the armed wing of Hamas, showed the driver's license and ID card of Simani who was found stabbed to death in north Jerusalem last week after hitchhiking from the Beersheba area.

The leaflet called for the release of Hamas supporters arrested during the past week, whose number is now estimated at more than 450, and warned there would be further abductions of soldiers.

High Court won't tamper with security set-up in areas

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday declined to issue an interim injunction against changes in the security arrangements in the territories, after the government insisted it is making every effort to protect residents there.

The injunction had been requested by the town of Ariel and its mayor, Likud MK Ron Nahman, following an April 13 television interview with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in which he said the security of residents of the territories is of lower priority than that of Israelis living within the Green Line.

In its response, the government argued that the security forces are doing "everything possible" to protect residents of the territories, since the government "recognizes the right of all Jews living in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza to protection."

Ex-rivals Kach, Kahane Chai plan to coordinate activities

BILL HUTMAN

LEADERS of the outlawed Kach and Kahane Chai groups announced in downtown Jerusalem yesterday they are now working together, after years of fighting about who would take over for slain Kach founder Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Several police officers watched the proceedings, held outdoors at Kikar Menorah, but did not take any action.

The police spokesman said while they recognized the two groups were outlawed, it had to be determined whether their actions warranted arrest.

Kahane Chai leader Benyamin Kahane, son of the slain Kach founder, and Michael Ben-Ari, second in command with Kach, declared that the groups were now "coordinating their operations."

They outlined their planned activities as aimed at forcing the government out of office, including steps they said could not be made public, hinting of their possible illegal nature.

Leaders of the groups decided to halt their feuding during talks in prison, where they were put by the government in response to the Hebron massacre. They said the government's outlawing of the two groups had backfired, and that the move only made them stronger.

Kahane, released from jail last week, said he and Marzel, the leader of Kach, were held at the same prison for six weeks. The two barely had spoken before, each claiming to have taken over for Kahane.

Ben-Ari, however, cautioned that "it is too early to speak of the reunification" of Kach and Kahane Chai.

Evelyn Gordon adds:

The Knesset plenum will hold a discussion on the treatment of the Kach activists in administrative detention, the Knesset decided yesterday. The discussion was requested by Limor Livnat (Likud), who charged that the government was trying to "shut the opposition's mouths" by its treatment of the detainees.

Cheney: Israel considered attacking Iraq during Gulf war

ALON PINKAS

ISRAEL seriously considered attacking Iraq after several Scud attacks, but was dissuaded by the US, according to former US secretary of defense Dick Cheney.

"Israel's restraint and strategic understanding of US interests prevented havoc had Saddam Hussein succeeded in expanding the Kuwait war into a war with Israel," he said yesterday.

In an exclusive interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Cheney, who is visiting here, stressed that the level of defense cooperation between the US and Israel reached new heights during the Gulf war.

It included the establishment of the Secure Communications System, through which Cheney spoke with then defense minister Moshe Arens "several times a day, sometimes three or four times."

Cheney lauded Arens, saying that during their concurrent tenure as defense chiefs, US-Israeli defense cooperation on a wide array of issues – the Arrow missile project, intelligence exchanges, technical cooperation, weapons systems procurement, and the "drawdown" from US stockpiles – was "the best ever."

Cheney said he is seriously considering running for the Republican nomination for president in 1996.

"I am doing everything necessary to make a decision, probably after the 1994 congressional elections," he said.

Cheney would not elaborate on his view of a viable security regime in the Golan Heights in the event of a peace accord between Israel and Syria.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Mr. Richard Harper, Director of the British School of Archaeology, will speak on the history and present activity of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem.

We deeply mourn the sudden passing of

Dr. ALFRED HYMAN

Southgate, London
who worked tirelessly for M.D.A. – U.K.

Estelle and Family, we grieve with you.

Naomi and Maurice
Netanya

King Hussein's mother dies

Queen Zein al-Sharaf, the 86-year-old mother of King Hussein and one of the protectors of his throne during Jordan's political turbulence in the 1950s, died yesterday.

King Hussein was hit hard by the news, officials said. From London, where he is recovering from minor ear surgery, he ordered 40 days of mourning. *Reuter*

Channel 2 franchise owners disappointed with low profits from advertising

LIAT COLLINS

THE three franchise holders for the New Channel 2 have lost a total of NIS 20 million since they were chosen last June, according to Tel-Ad director-general Uzi Peled.

Peled was addressing the Knesset finance committee which yesterday discussed MK Meir Sheetrit's bill that would permit local advertising on cable television.

Allowing advertising on cable television "would strike a death blow to the station before it was even born," said Peled. He said advertising income covered barely 50 percent of the New Channel 2's costs.

Sheetrit said he did not intend to hurt the New Channel 2, but claimed the ban on local advertising on cable television breached the principle of free trade.

The cable companies maintained that small, local companies which cannot afford the prices of the New Channel 2 have no means of advertising. They are being supported in their struggle by the Histadrut's Blue-and-White Council which claims that local advertising should be permitted to allow Israeli companies to compete with foreign products whose ads are constantly seen on cable television.

Reshet director-general Yohanan Zangen said the Israeli advertising market is limited to $400 million a year. The New Channel 2 hoped to mobilize $70 million of that amount, he said.

Nonetheless, he noted, "It is clear that the joint annual expenditure for the three franchise holders will reach NIS 80, and all the company holders could expect losses in 1994."

"No candidate for the New Channel 2 franchise had considered the possibility that the Knesset would pull the rug out from under their feet," said Keshet board member Mozi Wertheim. He asked the committee to abide by the promises made by the government, referring to former communications minister Moshe Shahal's pledge that cable advertising would not be permitted during the commercial station's early years.

UJA at full strength on solidarity mission

HAIM SHAPIRO

ALTHOUGH many American Jews have canceled their plans to visit Israel due to the Hebron massacre and the Palestinian terror which followed it, the United Jewish Appeal has not lost one participant on its missions, according to UJA president Marvin Lender.

Lender arrived in Israel on Monday together with 400 UJA leaders from around the US for a two-day mission to express their solidarity with the victims of the Afula car bombing. The group, he said, represented a real cross section of American Jewry.

"This is not a fund-raising mission. It is a mission of solidarity and there were no subsidies. That is unique for the UJA," Lender said.

The participants landed in Israel at the Ramat Aviv IAF air force base and, following a tour of the base, went directly to Afula to express their condolences the families of the victims of the attack.

The reaction of the residents was one of gratitude and appreciation that Jews from the US had made the two-day trip, Lender said.

"That made it worthwhile," he said.

On Monday night, the participants went to the Western Wall, for what Lender described as a very warm greeting from Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau.

Yesterday, they met with a group of Hebron residents and with US Ambassador Edward Djerejian. Later, the UJA delegates met with President Ezer Weizman at Beit Hanassi.

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هكذا من الأصل

Striking social workers take to the streets

SASHA SADAN

SHRILL plastic whistles blasted the air as more than 1,000 striking social workers protested outside the Finance Ministry in Jerusalem yesterday.

The protest lasted for more than an hour, then Association of Social Workers head Eli Ben-Gera dismissed it with a pledge to continue the strike until the workers' salary demands are met and "we have a signed agreement in hand." He promised more protests in the major cities today.

The police temporarily put handcuffs on one demonstrator, after union leaders, using bull horns, urged the workers to enter the ministry to press their case. The restrained social worker was released, Ben-Gera said, with the union's promise that the crowd would disperse peacefully.

Two horses carried posters bearing the slogan "We've run out of horsepower."

Ben-Gera lashed out at Treasury wage director Shalom Granit for seeking a restraining order yesterday, dismissing his claim that the strike is illegal and noting the union had the go-ahead from the Histadrut.

While the mood among the demonstrators seemed light, as they alternately yelled and then joked among themselves, they responded with instant depression to questions about their pay and work.

Police prevent social workers from forcing their way into the Finance Ministry building yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

Lea Pivo, of Ashkelon, a social worker for 20 years who is responsible for projects for the area's deaf and has her own case load, said she works in the field 39 hours a week and "of course also many more hours than that" and takes home NIS 2,100 a month.

Eyal Warshaviat, a welfare worker for the city of Holon, described his salary after three years as "very little." He said his job involves not merely long hours, but physical danger and incredible emotional pressure.

Asked how he or other social workers could ignore an appeal from a distressed minor, he shook his head and said: "You can't curse us when we are the very ones who care." He said that the municipal council for which he works is full of praise for what he does, but he is still paid peanuts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 Arabs who assisted terrorists get 12 years

Two men charged with assisting the terrorists who murdered Ramle residents David Dedi and Haim Weizman in December were both sentenced to 12 years in prison by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Ibrahim Elabid, 27, of Ramle, was convicted of leading the terrorists to Dedi's apartment and hiding them afterwards. Ahsan Mahmud Wadi, 20, of Khan Yunis, was convicted of giving the terrorists money on behalf of the Red Eagles to carry out the murders. *Itim*

Cattle in north have foot-and-mouth disease

The Agriculture Ministry yesterday declared the whole northern area a foot-and-mouth-disease infected region. The Chief Veterinarian issued orders restricting cattle movement and ordering farmers not to let unknown cattle traders into their ranches.

The ministry believes the disease spread from Jordan. Since an outbreak in the Jordan Valley a few months ago, hundreds of animals have died and the disease has spread throughout Judea, Samaria and Galilee, mainly in the Arab villages.

In an attempt to combat the spread of the disease, cattle markets have been closed and herds have been vaccinated, Shimshoni said. The disease does not endanger humans.

Arabs set to strike over financial deficit

Leaders of the country's Arab community decided to strike next weekend to protest its severe financial deficit. The strike will include all educational institutions and businesses.

The strike was to begin immediately, but the intervention of the chairman of the Center for Local Government, Karmiel Mayor Adi Eldar, who promised to help the Arab councils, got the strike postponed until the weekend.

The deficit was put at NIS 450 million by Hussein Suleiman, the spokesman for the Arab local councils, who said negotiations with government ministries had been unsuccessful. *Itim*

New IDF Spokesman appointed

Col. Amos Gilad has been appointed the new IDF Spokesman. He will assume his post in the next few weeks, and will be promoted to brigadier-general.

Gilad replaces Brig.-Gen. Ilan Tal, who will be appointed military attache at the embassy in Germany.

Gilad, 43, joined the Intelligence Branch in 1970. He has held a series of posts in intelligence, and recently served as acting military secretary to the prime minister. At the same time, he was a member of the delegation to the peace talks with Jordan in Washington.

Bosnian refugees leave for Slovakia

Twenty-three Bosnian refugees, among 83 taken in by Israel, leave today after asking to join a Bosnian community living in Slovakia. The Slovakian government agreed to allow them into the country.

"We thank you for giving us refuge and a peaceful life for a while, and for all the help we received," the 23 wrote to Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who was among those initiated the effort to bring the Bosnians here. The remaining Bosnians are being allowed to stay as long as they like.

Social workers lose their patience

BACKGROUND

SASHA SADAN

SHORTLY after noon yesterday, the masses of striking social workers demonstrating outside the Finance Ministry tried to break through the police barricades. They were, of course, held back, but the gesture indicated their predicament.

The 9,000 social workers have already been criticized in the press and by establishment voices for the strike, now a week old. How can they, for example, not come to the aid of a 12-year-old girl who has been raped, or a six-year-old who was reportedly left at home alone with his dead mother for six hours?

Because many of the social workers deal with horrendous problems daily, they are vulnerable when they withdraw their help, as their action seems hard-hearted in the extreme. While the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Ora Namir, who is long familiar with their woes from her work in the Knesset, has refrained from seeking a back-to-work order, she has indirectly told the union to permit some of its members to respond in cases of the most dire distress. The same appeal has come from the Knesset and others.

The strikers are confronted with a very different picture. It may be a mistake to believe your own propaganda, but the union is faced with an awful situation. As one former employee of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare put it: "The welfare system in this country is on the verge of collapse."

The strikers talk about laws that significantly increase what they have to do, and the half a million new immigrants who arrived over the last four years, many in need of their services.

It is not always the poor or the elderly or what are euphemistically called the "weaker layers" of the population who desperately need a social worker. It can be the expectant mother whose newborn dies in the hospital, or the car crash victim with whiplash and trauma, or a deaf child who just wants with all her heart to join a club with other kids who would understand and speak her language.

The cost to the Treasury of meeting the maximum demands of the social workers probably isn't what worries wage director Shalom Granit. But the more he yields, no matter how justified, the more vulnerable the government will be to the next group demanding higher wages.

The social workers walked off the job a year ago. After six days, they crumbled, and that move and the fuzziness of the accord signed has left a bitter taste. Union head Eli Ben-Gera says he struck the best deal possible, but there is considerable grumbling in the ranks. The anger has burst forth now no doubt because Histadrut elections are around the corner. Help will be forthcoming when votes are needed.

Doctors to resume strike if talks prove unfruitful

JUDY SIEGEL

IF progress is not made in negotiations tomorrow between Finance Ministry officials and the Israel Medical Association, doctors around the country will strike again next week.

Yesterday, hundreds of elective operations and tens of thousands of outpatient visits were postponed, after IMA members began a 24-hour warning strike, which ends at 7 a.m. today.

The IMA argues that doctors, who used to be at the top of the wage ladder in the health sector, are now on the bottom rungs. It also accuses the Finance Ministry of "footdragging" over negotiations for a wage contract to replace the old one that expired in December.

Yesterday's strike affected not only those hospitals owned by the government and Kupat Holim Clalit, but also the two Hadassah-University Hospitals, Shaare Zedek Hospital and Bikur Holim Hospital in Jerusalem, as well as health fund community clinics, family health (*tipat halav*) centers and district health offices.

Ilana Cohen, head of the Nurses' Union, yesterday rejected the IMA's claims that nurses were earning more per hour than physicians. "They are referring only to the per-hour basic salary, but not to the bottom line that includes many benefits and additions that makes them much better-paid than we are. It was unfair for the doctors to use such misleading figures."

Knesset unit favors compensating victims of sex crimes

EVELYN GORDON

VICTIMS of sexual crimes should receive some kind of monetary compensation, the Knesset law committee has decided.

It has not yet reached a decision on how much is appropriate or on how the payments should be handled, however. Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz), the initiator of the proposal, has suggested that a special fund be set up for this purpose at the National Insurance Institute.

Deputy Attorney-General Yehudit Karp told the committee yesterday that the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom might obligate the government to pay financial compensation in such cases, since the injury to human dignity – which the law requires the state to actively protect – is particularly blatant in sexual crimes.

However, Deputy State Attorney Rachel Sucar noted it is very difficult to quantify the psychological damage suffered by the victims. For this reason, she said, the state has generally refrained from requesting financial compensation.

Karp said that sexual crimes are currently "the Cinderella of the justice system," and that the system is generally apathetic to the suffering endured by the victims. The victim's only participation in the judicial proceedings, she continued, is an appearance on the witness stand; this often leaves the victim with the feeling that justice has not been done.

The committee is working on a number of amendments meant to aid the victims of sexual crimes. In addition to the issue of compensation, the committee has agreed that such cases should be tried by three judges instead of one, to increase the chances of a stiff sentence; that testimony given by the victim at the scene of the crime should be admissible in court; that the victim should be allowed to testify with the accused watching on closed-circuit TV instead of being in the courtroom, if his presence is found too traumatic; and that the statute of limitations for sexual crimes should be extended.

MDA: Lag ba'Omer can be fire hazard

JUDY SIEGEL

MAGEN David Adom has urged parents to supervise Lag ba'Omer bonfires tomorrow night to prevent carelessness that can cause serious burns and other injuries. The risk will be even greater if forecasts of a *sharav* (heat wave), with dry winds, prove accurate.

MDA said yesterday that sudden changes in the wind can shift the direction of bonfire flames and endanger people sitting too close. If someone's clothing catches fire, the following measures should be taken even before calling MDA for help:

Lay the person on the ground, roll him in dirt or sand or put out the fire with a large amount of water. The fire can also be extinguished with a wet blanket, but keep the victim's nose uncovered. Do not remove burnt clothing that may have become stuck to the skin. Sterile, wet gauze can be applied to the burns. Then call MDA at 101.

The Fire and Rescue Commission also advised the public against locating bonfires near trees, brush, overhead phone or electricity lines, gasoline tanks or other flammable materials.

Rubinstein: School trips should continue

HAIM SHAPIRO

EDUCATION Minister Amnon Rubinstein said yesterday that the security situation should not stop schoolchildren from going on on school trips. He added that the ministry kept a close watch on the security situation and issued directives accordingly.

Rubinstein was speaking to members of the Knesset Education Committee who were touring Jerusalem to mark the 10th anniversary of the Council for the Preservation of Historical Buildings and Monuments. They were also seeking to counter the drastic drop in school trips following the Hebron massacre and resulting wave of terror.

According to Yossi Leshem, director of the Society for the Preservation of Nature in Israel, some 44,000 student days of hiking were canceled in reaction to the attacks, a third of the annual total.

Mistreated monkey freed from restaurant lock-up

LIAT COLLINS

FOLLOWING public complaints about its poor living conditions, a monkey which became a fixture at a Nahshon Junction restaurant was taken to the Rishon Lezion Zoo yesterday.

The monkey, name and age unknown, was kept in a small cage with limited food and water. When Environment Ministry and Nature Reserves Authority officials arrived to confiscate the animal, the restaurant owners could not find the key to the locked cage and the door had to be broken after the animal was anesthetized by a veterinarian from the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo.

The monkey has lived at Sara's Restaurant, operated by the Attia family, for nearly 20 years but complaints only recently began to reach the Environment Ministry, appointed last year to handle cases of cruelty to animals.

"He was hungry, neglected and in conditions that can only be described as solitary confinement," said Moshe Horowitz, Minister Yossi Sarid's adviser who was at the site for the removal.

The restaurant did not have the necessary NRA permit for holding a wild animal in captivity.

NRA and Environment Ministry officials are examining whether the owners can be prosecuted under the new Cruelty to Animals Law.

Armed robbers get away with $250,000 in gems

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE are searching for armed robbers who stole $250,000 worth of jewelry from salesmen employed by the Talmor factory in south Tel Aviv yesterday morning.

Two employees were driving in a company car on Rehov Ben-Atar when they were cut off by a red vehicle with three men inside.

Two of the robbers, armed with a pistol and a knife, got out of the car and ordered the employees out of their vehicle. The thieves then stole the car, which contained gold and diamond jewelry. The driver of the robbers' car also escaped.

Police who set up roadblocks in the area later found the Talmor vehicle abandoned nearby. Despite a thorough search, however, they have not yet found the thieves or the other car.

On Monday night, a diamond merchant was beaten with a pistol by a gang of men near the Ramat Gan diamond exchange. They also stole the keys to his factory.

In Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday, Danny Bar-On, 25, suspected of staging a gold bullion robbery last week, was remanded for eight days.

Jewelry salesman Bar-On was allegedly given six kilograms of gold valued at between $50,000-$100,000 by his employer last Thursday evening. As he was leaving his employer's Ramat Hasharon home, a vehicle blocked his way and two motorcyclists pulled up. He told police the three forced Bar-On out of his car and stole the gold.

Acting on a tip received by another employee who said he knew Bar-On was planning the robbery, he was arrested and confessed. Detectives have not yet found the gold, which they believe was sold to a jewelry store, but are looking for Bar-On's partners, who allegedly include a former policeman.

Bar-On's employers did not immediately file a complaint with police, first approaching the suspect's father in an effort to get their gold back. Bar-On claims that his employers are trying to inflate the value of the gold, which he said is worth $50,000.

Magician pleads guilty to sexual assault

RAINE MARCUS

MAGICIAN Yitzhak "Chiko" Zohar was convicted of unlawful intercourse and sexual assault as part of a plea bargain in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

An original rape charge was dropped in return for a guilty plea on the lesser charges.

Zohar was arrested after several women complained to police that he had sexually assaulted them when they applied for jobs as stage assistants.

The case received extensive press coverage when Zohar was released from custody to marry his girlfriend, who said she did not believe allegations.

On one occasion, he asked a potential assistant to demonstrate how she would act out the role of a temptress, and then had sex with her. The woman's friend also arrived for an interview as her replacement, and she too was asked to perform the same role. Zohar also molested her.

A third woman was sexually assaulted when she arrived at his home to practice tricks for a performance.

Sentencing has been set for June to allow time for probation reports to be prepared.

2,500 addicts on income maintenance

Guaranteed income was paid to an average of 2,500 drug addicts a month in 1993, according to figures released yesterday by the National Insurance Institute. While they represented only 3 percent of those receiving income maintenance, their numbers have doubled since 1988, the NII said.

AVISO IMPORTANTE A LOS ESPAÑOLES RESIDENTES

El Consulado General de España en Jerusalén saluda a la Colectividad Española residente en la jurisdicción de este Consulado y le informa, que con motivo de la Convocatora de Elecciones de Diputados al Parlamento Europeo y elecciones al Parlamento de Andalucía, que tendrán lugar el domingo 12 de junio de 1994, estarán expuestas al público de 9.00 a 15.00 horas del 24 de abril al 2 de mayo ambos inclusives, en el tablón de anuncios de este Consulado General las listas del Censo, a fin de que cualquier persona pueda presentar reclamación sobre su inclusión, exclusión o modificación de los datos que figuran en las mismas, dentro de dicho plazo.

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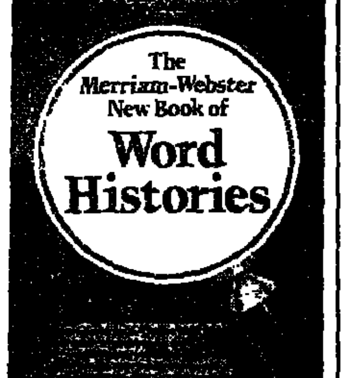

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259 killed in Japan air crash

News agencies

NAGOYA – At least 259 people died and two were missing after a Taiwanese airliner crashed and exploded at Nagoya airport in Japan's second worst air disaster, fire officials said last night.

The officials said 259 were confirmed dead after the crash of China Airlines Airbus Flight 140 from Taipei. Only 10 were known to have survived, out of 272 passengers and crew.

"The plane was coming in on a glide path but suddenly pulled up in a steep ascent," a local resident told Japan's NHK television network.

"Then I saw the engines catch fire. It crashed and there was an explosion."

Late last night the Japanese Transport Ministry released a transcript of the pilot's last words before the crash. Pilot Wang Lo-chi reported he was making a second attempt to land.

Television footage showed rescuers combing the wreckage of the China Airlines A300-600R Airbus for survivors or additional victims after it crashed on landing from Taipei, Taiwan.

Chang Tai-hsih, the head of the China Airlines branch in Japan, said the plane, Flight 140, was carrying 257 passengers, including two infants, and 15 crew members when it crashed at 8:18 p.m.

The cause of the crash was not immediately clear. Television footage showed the entire plane reduced to rubble. Bodies were laid out on a blue tarpulin on the tarmac.

The crash was the second worst in Japanese aviation history. The worst single-plane accident in any country occurred Aug. 12, 1985, when a Japan Airlines Boeing 747 crashed into a mountain on a domestic flight, killing 520 people.

Chang said the right wing of the plane touched the ground just before the crash.

He said he could not comment on reports that the aircraft was having engine trouble and that the passengers were unloaded and reboarded once in Taipei before takeoff.

A Transport Ministry official said the fire was put out at around 8:55 p.m.

Of the passengers, 158 were Japanese and 99 were of other nationalities, NHK reported. In Taipei, airline president Yuan Hsing Yuan told reporters that 63 of the passengers were Taiwanese. There was no immediate breakdown of other nationalities.

The Japan Broadcasting Corp. quoted a witness as saying the plane hit nose-first near the beginning of the runway and appeared not to have its landing gear down.

A series of three explosions followed, and the plane erupted in flames, it quoted him as saying.

Another witness, identified by the network only as Mr. Nomura, said the plane failed in an attempt to pull back up just before landing.

A spokesman for Airbus Industrie, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the company plans to send an investigative team to the site.

The A300-600R, a twin-engine wide-body jet, has not been involved in a crash before, but other A300 models have been involved in six accidents.

Nagoya is 270 km west of Tokyo.

Rescue workers search for survivors at Nagoya airport where a Taiwanese airliner crashed killing at least 259 people. (AP)

Serbs say they met ultimatum

SARAJEVO (Reuter) – The Bosnian Serb army said yesterday it had withdrawn heavy weaponry from a 20 km UN exclusion zone around Gorazde hours before a NATO deadline, but the United Nations said there was no proof this was true.

The UN said the battered UN Gorazde "safe area" for Moslems in eastern Bosnia was quiet and besieging Serb forces were withdrawing their weapons slowly but steadily.

NATO sources in Brussels, who asked not to be identified, said the alliance now looks unlikely to launch air strikes even if the Serbs fail to meet the deadline – providing any weapons still in the zone did not present a direct threat to Gorazde.

NATO has ordered the Serbs to pull all of their heavy weapons out of a 20 km exclusion zone around Gorazde or face massive air attacks.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday called on the Serbs to do more to comply, saying: "There's been some movement but not enough yet."

A UN peacekeeping force spokesman also warned the Serbs: "The deadline of 0001 GMT is very, very firm ... (It) is watertight."

Under the terms of NATO's ultimatum, the Serbs must withdraw their tanks, artillery and other heavy weapons at least 20 km from the town, one of six mainly Moslem UN-designated "safe areas" in Bosnia.

"Units of the Bosnian Serb army have withdrawn three km from the center of Gorazde and heavy artillery to 20 km from the town," the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA said, quoting a statement from the army command.

A UNPROFOR spokesman in Sarajevo said: "At this moment we are not able to confirm this."

UN spokesman Eric Chaperon said the Serbs had withdrawn a "significant part of weapons" from the exclusion zone.

He said there were still some Serbs soldiers within the three km limit. "They are trying to withdraw but it is not easy as you might believe. They have to withdraw under UNPROFOR protection."

Yugoslavia's Tanjug news agency, quoting the Bosnian Serb army command, said yesterday that Moslem fighters in Gorazde were firing at withdrawing Serbs forces "over the heads of the UN peacekeepers" in an attempt to provoke fighting.

It said one Serb soldier talking to UN officers was killed in the village of Kazagichi on Monday afternoon.

The NATO ultimatum halted a fierce three-week Serb offensive on Gorazde's 60,000 population which killed more than 700 people and wounded close to 2,000.

The United Nations has told NATO it will not block air strikes if the Serbs do not meet the deadline although attacks would expose 13,000 UN peacekeeping troops on the ground in Bosnia to Serb retaliation.

Serb forces reacted with fury to two limited NATO air attacks outside Gorazde on April 10 and 11 and intensified their onslaught on the town.

Yeltsin may cancel US-Russian maneuvers

MOSCOW (AP) – Bowing to pressure from hard-line legislators, President Boris Yeltsin may cancel the joint US-Russian military maneuvers planned for this summer, his press secretary said yesterday.

The weeklong maneuvers were scheduled to take place in July in the Ural Mountains with 250 troops from each country. Their aim was to prepare for joint peacekeeping missions under United Nations control.

Extreme nationalists in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, have denounced the plan. Some called it an American plot to invade Russia.

Yeltsin "regards with understanding the doubts expressed in the Duma about the expediency of the joint Russian-US staff and field exercises," spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said.

He added that Yeltsin had instructed the Defense Ministry to hold further consultations with the Americans. The ministry should then "consider the matter again, with due regard for the stance of the Russian legislators and opinions stated in this respect by the general public," Kostikov said in a written statement.

Russian commanders are in favor of the exercises between Russia's 27th Motorized Rifle Division and the US Army's 3rd Infantry Division. But Russian hard-liners are suspicious of what they see as American financial, ideological and military expansionism.

"We're against any joint military exercises on Russia's territory with any foreign army. No foreign army here! That's all aimed at destroying the Russian state," ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky told the Duma earlier this month.

The mounting influence of the hard-liners following election victories in December also has led Russia to oppose NATO air strikes in the former Yugoslavia, and postponed plans for Moscow to join NATO's Partnership for Peace program this month.

500 bodies attest to carnage in Rwandan church

CATHY WATSON

RUKARA

BLOATED corpses of men, women and children, disfigured further by grenade, machete and bullet wounds, lay sprawled yesterday in a Rwandan church, its main doorway, classrooms and a nearby nuns' home.

We counted some 500 of them.

In this modest compound, overhung with the sickly smell of death, they lay as grim witness both to pitiless civil war in this central African state and to the collapse of any services that could have helped the wounded.

For this massacre, one of countless in which 100,000 people have died in under three weeks according to aid workers, was carried out 19 days ago.

"We hid behind the altar where the grenades could not reach us," a frail survivor told visiting journalists.

Still trembling with emotion, Marie-Jose Usaba said Hutu militiamen hurled grenades inside the church at Rukara, 80 km northeast of the capital Kigali.

It was packed with hundreds of terrified people seeking sanctuary from the violence which had erupted the day before, sparked by the deaths of the Rwandan and Burundian presidents in a rocket attack on their plane.

Usaba, 48, told Reuters that militiamen known as "interhamwe", extremist members of Rwanda's Hutu majority, carried out the April 7 killings at the church.

"I reached the point where I wished a grenade would get us ...when suddenly a vehicle sped up to the church and people shouted out 'The RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Front) are coming' so the interhamwe fled before they finished us."

Patriotic Front rebels seized the area on April 13.

Usaba said the dead were members of Rwanda's Tutsi minority.

Several Hutus who were with them were removed peacefully from the church by militiamen before they started the slaughter by throwing grenades through the windows.

Survivors said two Spanish nuns appealed earlier to a local official to protect the Tutsis from the interhamwe but instead he cut the water supply to the complex to try to force them out. The two nuns were forced to flee by militiamen.

During a tour of the almost one-third of Rwanda captured by the RPF in nearly three weeks of fighting, RPF fighters said interhamwe were responsible for most massacres and were a bigger problem than the army.

"The army is better than the interhamwe because a big section of it doesn't approve of this mass killing. But the interhamwe were formed, trained and equipped to kill," said RPF head of information, Wilson Litayasire.

Litayasire said he hoped a unilateral ceasefire declared by the RPF on Monday would be respected by government forces but if not the rebels would have to look to take over the government.

Socialists officially quit Japan coalition

TOKYO (Reuter) – Japan's Socialist Party formally decided yesterday to pull out of the ruling coalition, a party official said.

The move, foreshadowed overnight in an angry statement by party chief Tomiichi Murayama, strips new prime minister Tsutomu Hata of his majority.

The Socialists, who had voted on Monday to install Hata as premier, were later enraged by the sudden formation of a new parliamentary bloc grouping the coalition's centrist and conservative parties but excluding them.

An emergency meeting of the party's executive committee spurned hasty attempts by Hata to smooth the Socialists' ruffled feathers. Murayama had told a post-midnight news conference the maneuvering by the coalition's non-socialist parties betrayed basic trust betwen alliance partners.

"We cannot forgive the rest of the coalition," he said. "There is no room for further talk. We are pulling out of all forums of the ruling coalition."

The sudden flare-up immediately stopped Hata's efforts to form a new government to succeed that of Morihiro Hosokawa, who resigned this month.

Final subatomic building block discovered

BATAVIA, Ill. (AP) – Scientists have discovered evidence of the top quark, the missing subatomic piece in the theory of matter, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory announced yesterday.

The top quark is one of 12 subatomic particles in the Standard Model theory, which defines what is known of the atom and its structure, and is central to understanding the nature of time, matter and the universe. Eleven of those particles have been found, but the top quark has eluded scientists for two decades.

The scientific milestone was made by a team of 440 researchers from around the world working at the laboratory west of Chicago, said Judy Jackson, director of Fermilab's office of institutional planning and policy. It was first reported in Saturday's *Chicago Tribune*.

The team included scientists from the United States, Canada, Italy, Japan and Taiwan, working at the Fermilab outside Chicago.

Though unlikely to affect every day life, the finding, if confirmed, would be a major breakthrough in physics. Without the top quark, the Standard Model would collapse, forcing scientists to rethink three decades of work worth billions of dollars.

"We've needed the top quark. It figures in all our calculations for further processes, and none of them would be right if it weren't there," Hans A. Bethe, a Nobel laureate in physics at Cornell University, said in yesterday's *New York Times*.

Additional study will be needed to establish the existence of the top quark, and the Fermilab team's research is continuing, Jackson said.

"Experimenters have been looking for the top quark for 17 years," she said in a telephone interview. "That's what makes the first real evidence that we're on the right track so interesting.

"It's really a milestone, not just for Fermilab, but for high energy physics," Jackson said.

All matter is made of atoms. Nearly 100 years ago, scientists discovered atoms were made of smaller particles, such as protons and neutrons. But these subatomic particles later showed signs of being made of yet smaller building blocks, six quarks and six leptons.

Various combinations of these 12 particles are believed to make up all matter.

The race to find the top quark involved experiments on machines that accelerate particles almost to the speed of light, making them crash into one another and break down into their smallest elements.

The latest experiment was run in June at the Fermilab's Tevatron, a 6.4-km circular accelerator in an underground tunnel, Jackson said.

It has taken months to analyze the results and run further tests to back up the initial experiment, she said.

The quark has been elusive because of its mass, Jackson said.

"It appears to have a mass that is much greater than any of the other ... subatomic particles," she said.

Fermilab is run by the US Energy Department.

The six quarks are named "up" and "down," "charm" and "strange" and "top" and "bottom."

Britain's 'House of Horror' up for sale

GLOUCESTER (Reuter) – Britain's notorious "House of Horror", where police have exhumed nine female bodies, is being put up for sale, lawyers for accused serial killer Frederick West and his wife Rosemary said yesterday.

West, a 52-year-old builder, has been charged with the murder of nine young women whose remains were dug up by police from the garden, cellar and bathroom wall at the house during a police operation started in February.

Rosemary West has been jointly charged with one of the nine Cromwell Street murders.

Dubbed the "House of Horror" by British media, the current market value of a similar house in the same area would be about £50,000 but it was not clear how much the macabre building might fetch or whether it would sell at all.

"If there is anyone interested in buying the property, let's hear from them," Leo Goatley, who represents Mrs West, said.

Goatley, with West's lawyer Howard Ogden, said local estate agents would be instructed to advertise the house at 25 Cromwell Street in the western English city of Gloucester when police end their dig and hand it over at the end of this week.

Police opened a new phase of the case yesterday and began digging for bodies at a second home once occupied by West in Gloucester. They said there was no objection to the Cromwell Street sale.

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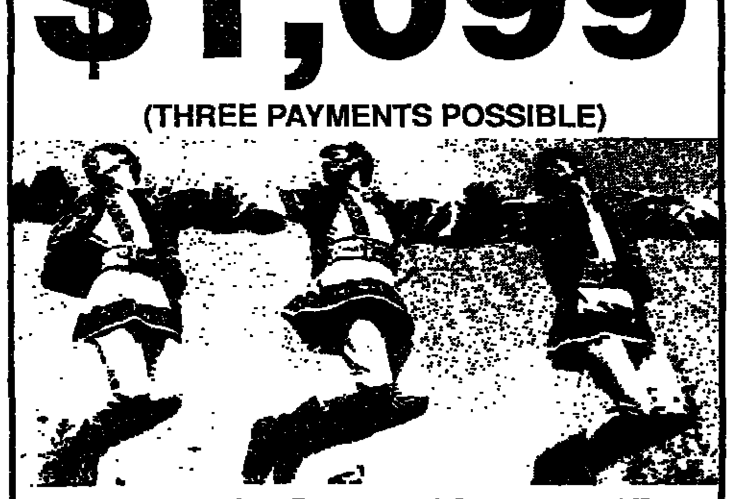

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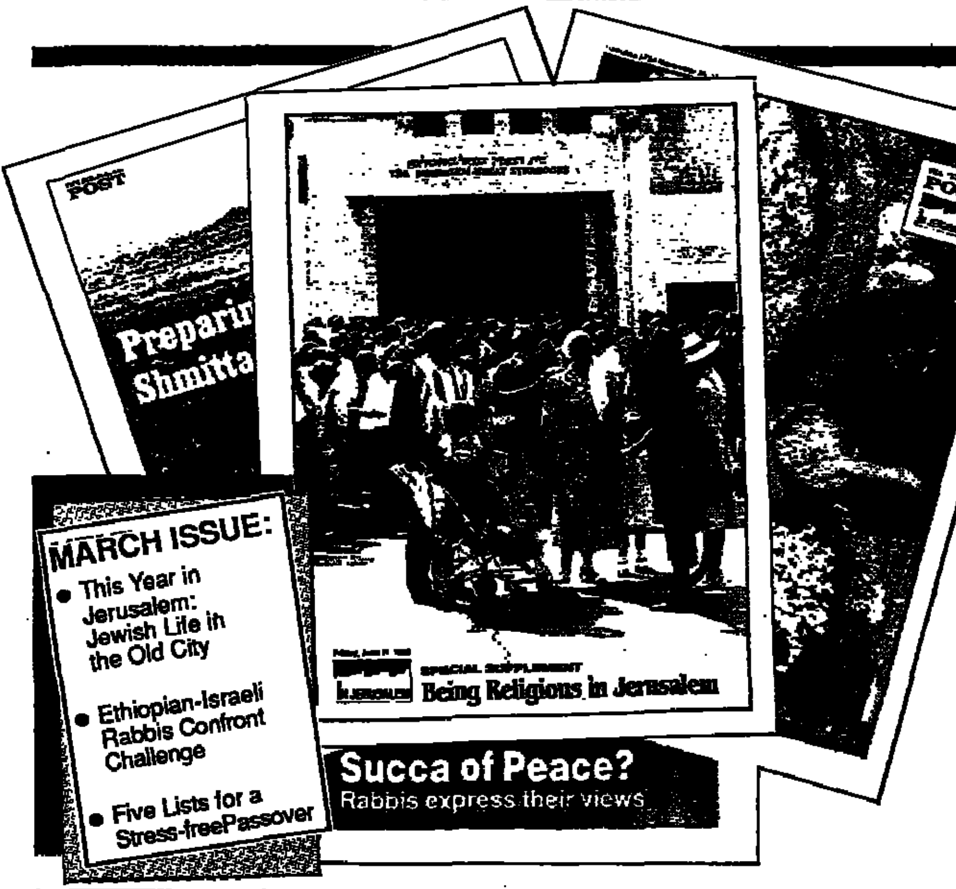

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Robben Island prisoners vote

CAPE TOWN (Reuter) – Prisoners on Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in jail, were among the first black South Africans to vote.

Presiding officer Elrich Johannes said voting began at about 7.35 a.m. yesterday after the boat taking electoral officials from Cape Town harbor to the island about seven miles offshore broke down and had to return to port.

"Apart from that, everything has gone swimmingly," Johannes said in a telephone call from the former political prison.

"Everything is so peaceful and orderly, it's really quite spectacular," he said.

Johannes said voting was initially slow because prison authorities required each voter to be tested with a single metal detector.

"We are processing about 80 men an hour, but the prison has sent for a second metal detector and then we should be able to speed things up a bit," he said.

Prison commander Major Gerhard Brand said inmates were taken in groups from cells to the recreation hall pooling booths.

Election officials put up a banner at a polling station in the black township of Tokoza yesterday. (AP)

Mandela: Today marks the dawn of our freedom

TINA SUSMAN

JOHANNESBURG

BLACK South Africans, refusing to be cowed by terrorist threats, voted for the first time yesterday to replace white rule with democracy and install a government headed by Nelson Mandela.

Two days of bomb blasts that killed 21 people were no deterrent to blacks and whites who poured to polling stations in gritty townships, in leafy suburbs, and in the mountainous solitude of eastern Natal Province.

"Today is a day like no other," Mandela said in a statement to the nation. "Today marks the dawn of our freedom."

"Standing together, let us send a message loud and clear: we will not let a handful of killers steal our democracy," said Mandela, whose African National Congress is expected to easily win the vote.

A man claiming to be from the White Freedom Movement telephoned a Johannesburg newspaper Monday night to say the organization staged an attack that killed 10 people Monday in Germiston, a suburb east of Johannesburg. Police did not know if the call was genuine, but suspicion over a string of attacks Sunday and Monday had focused on white extremists who are boycotting the vote and have vowed to wage war rather than live under black rule.

More than 100,000 police and army troops – well over double the number originally planned – were deployed to protect voters, who will elect a 400-seat National Assembly and a 90-seat Senate comprising legislators from the country's nine provinces.

Logistical problems due to delayed ballot papers and bomb threats were reported. The Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party, which called off its election boycott only last week, said there were widespread problems with delivery of the stickers that added the party's name to the bottom of the ballot.

The Independent Election Commission said two trucks ferrying voting equipment had been burned in the violent black township of Katlehong, but balloting was not affected.

At Settlers, a farm town north of Pretoria, khaki-clad whites, vowing no votes would be cast in the area, occupied a community center. Election monitors investigated, but said the building was not intended as a poll.

The disruptions did not overshadow the significance of the day. In fact, some of the delays were caused when eager voters who did not qualify as sick, handicapped or elderly – those for whom the first day of voting was reserved – swamped polling venues.

Near the black township of Guguletu, outside Cape Town, 53-year-old Mabel Nceyabo arrived at 4:15 a.m. to be first in line.

Mandela: We will not let a handful of killers steal our democracy. (AP)

Behind her was 67-year-old Korma Madikane, who was hoping for a "no more struggling." after the election.

At an old-age home near Durban, 89-year-old wheelchair-bound Nelli Zimema was misty-eyed as she voted. "I never thought this day would come and I'm so pleased because my people have never had this chance before," said Zimema.

Because of rugged conditions in many areas, and the newness of voting to most, three days were planned for the 23 million voters – most of them black – to cast ballots. Yesterday was for those who needed extra time to vote. South Africans living overseas also voted yesterday, and the first to do so was Mandela's niece, Nomaza Paintin.

"I have cast that first vote. It means a restoration of dignity ... for every South African person. My grandfather, my grandmother and my father who is long dead. I feel as if I am voting for them." Paintin told reporters as she voted in Wellington, New Zealand, when polls opened there at 7 a.m.

Another early voter was Corrie de Klerk, the 89-year-old mother of President F.W. de Klerk, who accompanied her to the poll at a Pretoria home for the elderly. "I feel a sense of achievement," said de Klerk, whose introduction of reforms led to the vote that will put him out of office.

Counting begins Friday, with final results expected May 1.

At stake is the future of a country struggling to escape a vicious past, which left it fractured along racial lines and reduced its economy to Third World levels for blacks while most whites live comfortably. There was little question the ANC would win, based on Mandela's popularity among the blacks who comprise 30 million of the country's 40 million people.

Transition draws great US interest

THOMAS W. LIPPMAN

WASHINGTON

BY many traditional definitions of national interest, the United States might appear to have little at stake in the electoral drama unfolding in South Africa.

There are no oil fields to protect, no US bases or troops in the region, no US military alliances anywhere in sub-Saharan Africa and no Cuban troops or other Soviet proxies to be confronted. The US never fought a war there. After years of boycott, US economic ties to South Africa are limited.

In addition, "It wasn't a colony of ours, and we don't have guilt there like in other countries where we shored up dictatorships," such as Iran, according to Rep. Harry Johnston, D-Fla., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa.

Despite the lack of historic and economic ties, South Africa's transition from racial separation to multiracial democracy is attracting extensive public and media attention across the United States, in what government officials and independent analysts say is a reflection of the inherent fascination of the events there and a recognition that South Africa could have major signifcance for US interests in the future.

"We believe that a democratic South Africa will promote peace and prosperity in the entire Southern Africa region while simultaneously advancing American interests by expanding the market for US. goods and services, even as we create jobs in South Africa through the purchase of increasingly available and sophisticated exports," Commerce Secretary Ron Brown said Monday in speech at Howard University. "We intend to forge a partnership between our two countries that is long-lasting and mutually beneficial."

Brown announced that the Clinton administration plans to double the level of US aid to South Africa, currently $80 million a year.

One major reason for the interest in South Africa is that the elections and the prospect of a peaceful transition to majority rule represent a clearcut triumph of good over evil, a relative rarity in a world of murky foreign policy issues such as Bosnia. Apartheid – the separation of South Africa's population by race – was long a target of condemnation across a wide spectrum of American society.

US leadership of the generation-long international campaign to isolate the apartheid government was "a policy driven by societal attitudes" in this country, rather than by "what we thought of as traditional state-to-state relations," according to Michael Clough, an Africa specialist at the Council on Foreign Relations.

What is happening represents an outcome that most Americans have sought for decades, he and others said. While there may have been disagreement over tactics, such as the wisdom of US corporations pulling out of South Africa, harldy anyone disagreed that apartheid was abhorrent.

"It's true that we have no strategic interests" in the traditional sense in south Africa, a congressional speicalist said. But he noted that is exactly the reason the transition is so important to the Clinton administration, which is trying to emphasize human rights, democracy and free markets in its foreign policy, rather than the strategic considerations that dominated policy in the Cold War era.

An orderly transition in South Africa would also represent a major item of good news on an unhappy continent, where images of death from Somalia and Rwanda have dominated media attention.

"Africa is not a happy place. It's burdened by many things and slipping into the sea economically," a State Department official said. "South Africa could be the engine that drives southern Africa into some kind of stability and prosperity, not just by example but by the force of economy and skill."

(Washington Post)

South Africans around the world vote

FROM Canada to New Zealand, from Hong Kong to Harare, Zimbabwe, thousands of South Africans around the world cast their ballots Tuesday in the country's first multiracial elections.

In London, a carnival atmosphere erupted in Trafalgar Square where thousands of voters snaked around the South African Embassy, the former focus of apartheid protests and vigils.

There was no violence and voting went smoothly around the world except in Hong Kong, where ballot papers ran out three hours before voting was supposed to end.

"I feel totally deflated," said Katya Kladouhos, who couldn't vote in the cramped office on the 27th floor of an office block used by the South African Consulate in Hong Kong. "All my hopes have gone bang."

Consul-General Michael Farr arranged for photocopies to be used and voting resume, but not before some disillusioned voters had left.

In South Africa, the elderly, ill and pregnant voted Tuesday. In neighboring Zimbabwe, lines of up to 400 meters formed at polling booths watched by armed police.

In Kenya some 150 South Africans were expected to vote at a Nairobi sports club.

"It is exciting. But the glamor is taken away by the fact that I cannot vote together with my people, the ones who have suffered so much. It is lonesome, you might say," said Orma Simanane, a marketing executive from Durban, South Africa who voted in Nairobi.

More than 10,000 South Africans living in the United States were expected at 21 voting stations, including a ballroom at the Philadelphia Civic Center.

In Canada, 12 polling stations were open, including at the embassy in Ottawa.

"I have butterflies in my stomach. It is very exciting," said Jackie Masebelanga, 30, an ANC worker in London. She remembered picketing the South African embassy when she was eight.

Her husband Raisaka Masebelanga, a 31-year-old law student, confessed to mixed emotions.

"I feel angry that I have had to wait so long to vote. Today is a culmination of blood, sweat and tears. I feel angry about the people who are not here today to vote. This is the beginning of the reconciliation," Masebelanga said.

Voters at a union hall in Dublin, Ireland had their fingers inked to prevent fraud after they marked their ballots.

About 1,500 South Africans were expected to vote in Holland at the Dutch Congress Building in The Hague.

In Wellington, New Zealand, Mandela's niece, Nomaza Paintin, shouted the African National Congress cry of "amandla," which means "power," after she cast her ballot.

In Australia, about 60,000 South Africans eligible to vote at 19 polling stations set up in major cities. Heather Thompson told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. she voted for current President and National Party leader F.W. de Klerk.

"I am not optimistic at all," she said. "I just fear for my family that they will lose every thing and that the crime rate will go up much higher than what it has been." (AP)

South African President F.W. de Klerk accompanies his mother Corrie as she arrives at a Pretoria retirement home to cast her ballot in yesterday's election. (AP)

Witchdoctor votes, claims democracy is free of evil spirits

BHAMBAYI (Reuter) – Black witchdoctor Samane Hlongwane put aside her sorcery bones yesterday and voted for the first time – declaring the democratic process free of evil spirits.

Hlongwane, 54, said she felt elated and could not detect any bad omenhs at her polling station in one of the most violent areas of South Africa's volatile, mainly-Zulu Natal province.

"I feel very happy. I feel very strong. People are going to be free now and they will be able to sleep at night," she said after voting.

Hlongwane, a "Sangoma" or traditional leader, said she had taken time off from casting her divination bones and dispensing herbal remedies in Bahambayi, a sprawling squatter settlement 20 km outside Durban.

Officials of the Independent Electoral Commission shepherded Hlongwane and other elderly or sick people through the voting at a school in Bhambayi.

Many received voter education and IEC officials said voting was running smoothly. But Hlongwane still jerked her hand away from a scanner detecting invisible ink used to mark voters' hands.

"I was so scared of doing all of those things," said Hlongwane, bedecked with African beads and animal skin bracelets.

She detected no evil spirits at the polling booth. "Hey nothing", she said when asked by reporters.

Bhambayi is split between supporters of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and the rival Inkatha Freedom Party. At least 300 people have been killed in the squatter settlement in clashes between the rival factions in the past 8 months.

The divide is very visible. On the Inkatha side posters with the face of Mangosuthu Buthelezi line the shacks and on the ANC side, posters with Mandela's face are nailed to every tree.

Disgruntled voter wants Jan Smuts

CAPE TOWN (Reuter) – One elderly voter was not pleased with South Africa's first exercise in full democracy yesterday.

The old man, who declined to give his name, arrived at a polling station in the Cape Town district of Thornton to vote for soldier-statesman Jan Smuts, who was prime minister from 1939 until the Afrikaner National Party took over in 1948.

The man left when electoral officials told him that Smuts, who died in 1950, was not a candidate.

THE JERUSALEM POST TOY FUND

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J. Goodman /D. Greener

PROPOSAL OF PRINCIPLES FOR A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN TECHEN ENTERPRISES LTD. AND ITS CREDITORS

On 24/4/94, in accordance with previous notice to the creditors of Techen Enterprises Ltd. (hereinafter "the Company") which was published pursuant to the Tel Aviv District Court's order of 7/4/94 in Motion File 764/94, some of the Company's creditors submitted their Proofs of debts.

The following principles of the Settlement, which will be proposed by the Trustee to the creditors of the Company, do not include any figures and are subject to further amendments and adjustments. The reasons are as follow: (i) there are discrepancies between the proofs of debts and the Company's financials as to the actual debt of the Company, (ii) some of the creditors submitted proofs of debts for the same debt, and (iii) some of the proofs of debts were not prepared as of the date requested by the Trustee.

The following are the principles of the proposed Settlement:

A. The debt to various suppliers of raw materials and services (hereinafter: "Suppliers") and to creditors with priority by law, will be paid in full and in due order.
The "Suppliers", for this purpose, shall be defined by the Trustee which shall take into consideration the need of maintaining the good relationships of the Kibbutzim Industries with such suppliers, for the sake of said Industries and the Company's creditors.

B. The remaining debt to other creditors which will not be defined as Suppliers (the "financial entities") will be settled as follows:
1. Up to 40% of the debt will be waived (erased);
2. Up to 26% of the debt will be paid immediately;
3. The remainder of the debt will be spread in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Kibbutzim Agreement;

C. The payment sources will be based on the repayment capacity of those kibbutzim able to meet their obligations, as will be determined by the Trustee, and the balance will be financed by the Israeli Government, which will contribute NIS 0.65 for each NIS 1 waived (erased) by the financial entities, subject to other conditions to be determined by the Ministry of Finance and the Israeli Government.
D. The Company's debt to the creditors listed in chapter B of Exhibit B to the Kibbutzim Agreement, will not be paid under this Settlement, but will be settled through the settlement to be agreed upon for the Central Organizations of the Kibbutz Ha'artzi (Ma'arechet Mercasit) in coordination with the Head of the Administration of the Kibbutzim Agreement.
E. This Settlement will be final and conclusive and any claim or right of any creditor against either the Company, the parties to this Settlement or any third party, will be waived.

Dr. Ariel Halperin
The Trustee for the
Settlement

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Social workers and other strikers

THE country's social workers will tomorrow enter the second week of their strike. Yesterday, all the doctors in this country went out on a 24-hour warning strike. Their complaint is that in some instances their pay is half that of nurses.

Last week, pharmacists returned to work in Kupat Holim Clalit and community clinics after a six-day strike. The 120,000 engineers, practical engineers, technicians and academic workers, who threatened to strike last week, have yet to reach an agreement with the Treasury. Their dispute is over the terms of a memorandum-of-understanding signed in August 1993. Magen David Adom threatens to order all ambulance drivers to ignore calls for help unless an additional medical orderly is added to ambulance crews.

Medical workers, now working without a contract, are negotiating for an agreement in an effort to avoid a strike. The 7,000 administrative workers in government hospitals are demanding to renegotiate their contracts, claiming the Treasury has cheated them. The same demand is being made by 1,300 administrative workers in the district offices of the health ministry, and by 700 transport ministry employees. Thousands employed in the defense industries have declared a work dispute, others are on the verge of declaring one. A crippling strike is expected in at least some of the plants. And workers in public corporations are in a state of suspended animation, awaiting the labor turmoil which will inevitably accompany privatization.

All this, only weeks after the 77-day-long university lecturers' strike caused untold hardship to students and lecturers, and inestimable damage to the economy. (Nor is this bitter, divisive dispute over. The lecturers, who have yet to see a signed agreement, are threatening to go back on strike unless all wage tables are adjusted by Sunday, and April salaries include the promised rise in salaries.)

This plague of work disputes, says Histadrut trade union department head Ephraim Jilony, is not extraordinary. It is just that "their tone is more tense and radical because of the elections to the Histadrut." Some observers disagree, believing that inconsideration, stubbornness and bitterness have become characteristic of work disputes in this country, that they are a sign of the times.

Yet there is no doubt that the striking workers – many of whom have real, festering grievances – hope that the current Histadrut leadership, battling for its life in a tough election, will want to show its mettle by helping them win their goals. They know, too, that since the government is eager to see this leadership retain power, the Treasury may be more forthcoming with its offers in the weeks before the Histadrut elections.

To say that workers' conditions and labor-management relations will improve if the government divests itself of most if not all of its enterprises is to state the obvious. A centralized economy in which virtually all health and social services – let alone industries – are directly or indirectly controlled by the government is as unhealthy as it is anachronistic.

But it is almost inevitable that social services performed by social workers will be under the government's aegis in the foreseeable future. And it is just as inevitable that strikes by these workers, like walkouts by doctors and nurses, will inflict terrible hardships on the people least able to bear them.

The stories of raped children deprived of the help and support only social workers can provide, or of a six-year-old boy left alone in an apartment with a dead mother for many hours with no social worker available afterwards to deal with the situation, are nothing short of harrowing. Yet the social workers who earn sub-standard wages can hardly be blamed for feeling that only pressure by a shocked public can bring them succor.

The solution is not to demand that social workers, medical personnel and doctors work for a pittance, nor to excoriate the Treasury for attempting to curb inflation by refusing to yield to workers' demands. The only reasonable way to avoid such strikes in vital industries and services is to enact legislation which will make binding arbitration mandatory.

There is no reason why a compromise should be reached only after a long, bitter and devastating strike. A panel of retired judges, for example, can reach the same kind of compromise, if not a far more equitable one, in much less time, and save the country and its citizens the anguish and agony of savage, debilitating and totally unnecessary strikes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Sir, – It was with incredulity and revulsion that I read in your column of April 8 that the German ambassador gave a party at his home on the eve of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. There can be no excuse for the German ambassador not having this date of all dates clearly marked on his calendar, to share the grief of our people caused by his.

If ever there was a cause for our government to put aside diplomatic niceties and express its disgust on behalf of the Jewish people at this demonstration of total lack of sensitivity, this is it.

EDWIN HOFFENBERG

Haifa.

Sir, – Your report of April 8, about the dinner party at the home of the German ambassador on the eve of the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day did not surprise me in the least.

I am a Holocaust survivor from Birkenau where my parents, sisters, brother, grandfather, cousins, aunts, uncles and friends were murdered 50 years ago by the Germans. On the evening of the infamous dinner party, I was giving a talk about the Holocaust to some 120 soldiers at an army base. One of the many questions asked was "Do you think the Germans have changed?" My answer was "No, they only lost the war, thank God!"

The ambassador should apologize first of all to the six million Jews they managed to slaughter, to the survivors who live with their nightmares and to their children and grandchildren who grew up without a family.

He and those like him should be pronounced *persona non grata* by our Foreign Office and by all human beings who respect themselves. Perhaps it has slipped the mind of the ambassador that they are the very people who are responsible for this day of mourning.

LEA FUCHS-CHAYEN

Tel Aviv.

SECURITY LAPSE

Sir, – The permanent roadblocks on all major arteries connecting Judea, Samaria and Gaza with pre-1967 Israel, in place since April 3, 1993, were imposed by Yitzhak Rabin to "protect" the citizens of pre-1967 Israel, as he repeatedly avowed. However, since then, the terrorists, particularly those of Hamas, have on numerous occasions, in interviews with the media, openly ridiculed these roadblocks, explaining that they travel at will back and forth between pre-1967 Israel and Judea, Samaria and Gaza without being troubled at all.

They have even been kind enough to openly explain how they confound our inspired defense authorities. They just paint the blue license plates of their vehicles in the yellow colors of Israel (or steal such a vehicle), place a knitted kippa on their heads and breeze through the roadblocks. Why? Because vehicles with yellow license plates, containing identifiable Jews, are waved through the roadblocks. The defense establishment ostensibly does not wish to burden the Jewish population of these areas and thus grants them this convenience.

In truth, a very simple expedient would solve this disastrously fatal but obvious security lapse. Simply ask the soldiers at each roadblock to stop every car for a few seconds and ask the driver a question (such as "How are you?" or, in the case of a kippa-wearer, "On what eight-day holiday do we sing *Maoz Tzur?*"). If the driver of a yellow license plate vehicle refuses to speak, or answers with an Arab accent, or in the case of a kippa-wearer, knows nothing of Judaism, he should be questioned much more closely. This expedient will stop the Hamas free-passage farce of today, be only a minor inconvenience for the Jewish residents affected, and trivial to implement.

YACOV M. TABAK

Jerusalem.

IDIOMANTICS

Sir, – As a former English teacher, I was delighted by Moshe Kohn's article on the use of language (April 8). The term "settler" has been irritating me for some time. It conjures up a vision of a Wild Western cowboy waving a pistol at some poor Indian. My son and his young family do not fit this description, despite living in Ariel.

May I suggest using the word "returnees" when referring to those living in Judea and Samaria? ("West Bank" is another of my bugbears.)

DORIS HASSON

Haifa.

JEWISH SURVIVAL

Sir, – Shimon Peres has said that devoting so much energy and military manpower to protecting 40 Jewish families surrounded by thousands of hostile Arabs in the heart of Hebron is illogical and "absurd." Indeed, I read that the IDF is finding it increasingly burdensome to fulfill its tasks on behalf of these few Jews.

It occurred to me that the same might have been said about establishing the State of Israel itself. Was it not illogical and absurd for some thousands of Jews to place themselves in the midst of millions of hostile Arabs and not only to declare, but to build a state? And to ask generations of its youth to fight and die to protect it?

Persistence pays. It paid off for the state in its entirety; it will eventually pay off for the Jews of Hebron. Franz Kafka, the Czech Jew who well understood the logic of Peres's kind of thinking, once wrote: "Logic is doubtless unshakable; but it cannot withstand a man who wants to go on living."

It is this paradox which is the secret of Jewish survival, in small places and large, throughout history and geography.

DAN VOGEL

Jerusalem.

RACIST OPINION

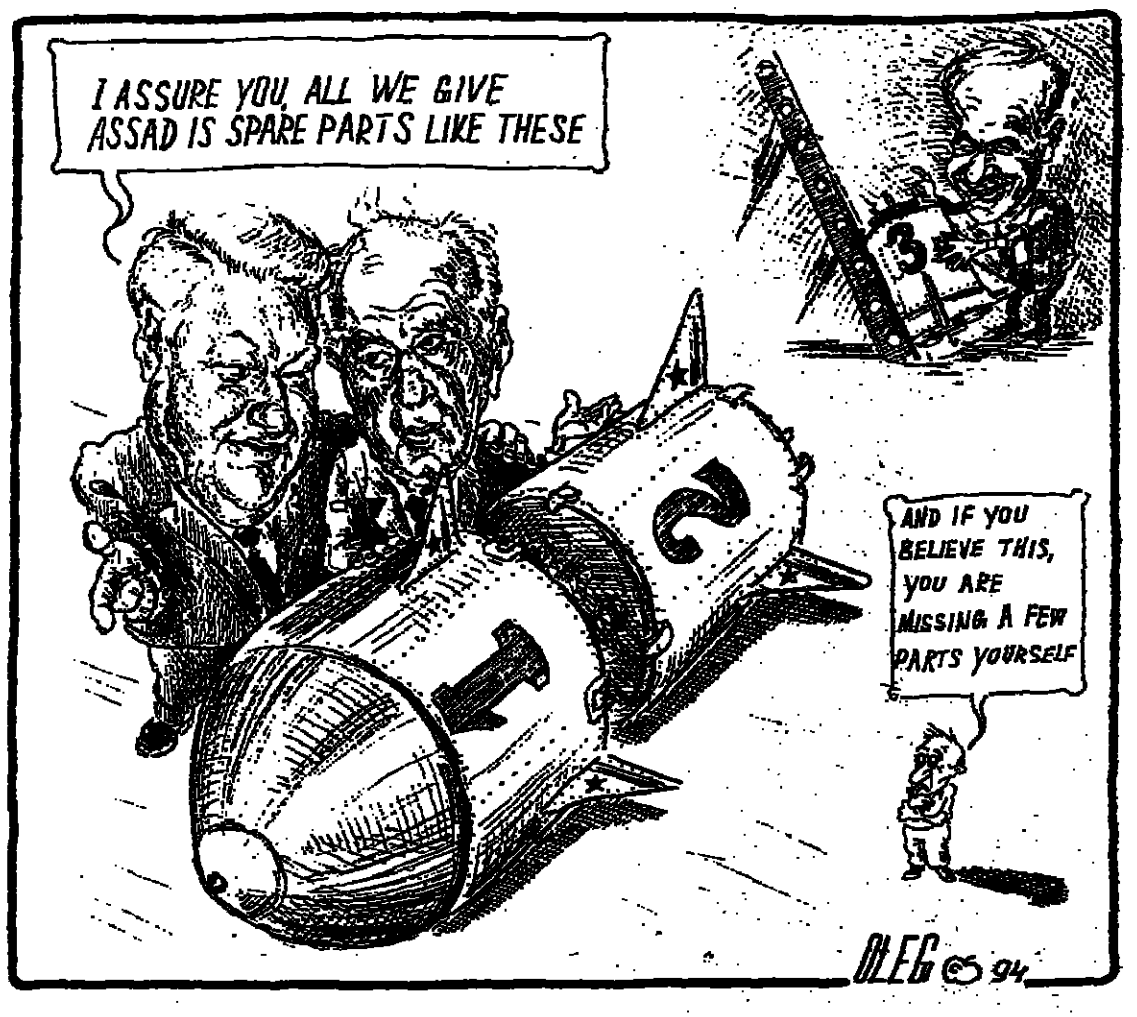
Sir, – In his letter of April 17, Rabbi Shmuel Himelstein harshly criticizes Mr. Kenneth Besig for his support and endorsement of Baruch Goldstein and berates the *Post* for printing such "blatantly racist filth." It seems to me that, inadvertently, Rabbi Himelstein has opened up an issue that I wish some of your writers and/or readers would deal with.

Concerning the Hebron massacre, there seems to be two trends of thought. One is: if they (the Arabs) can kill with impunity why can't we? Let's give them a taste of their own medicine. On the other hand, there is an opinion that we should not be dragged down to their level. Jews have a higher morality. We should be collectively ashamed of our coreligionist's crime.

Now the rub is this: the first opinion says we are all equal and have the same morality – a truly egalitarian approach. The second opinion is quite racist. They may kill and maim because they are Arabs, but we may not because we are Jews.

MOSHE POUPKO

Jerusalem.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If the storm breaks

HANAN BEN-YEHUDA

SOUTH Africa is holding its first democratic elections under the slogan "One man, one vote."

These elections are likely to create a new political, economic and social reality, one which could lead to tension and upheaval in South Africa's move from the racist regime of apartheid to one based on democratic principles.

Prime Minister F.W. de Klerk, who heads the National Party, and Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, are both hopeful and fearful as they bring about changes in the face of strong opposition from their respective communities.

It is anticipated that Mandela will win more than 50 percent of the vote. Despite the stipulation of a five-year transition period before the combined National Unity Government takes power, it seems clear that Mandela and his supporters will be in complete charge.

This will lead to a radical shift in the status quo. Economic resources will be allocated to eight times as many people as before, causing a decline in public services.

Many whites will be dismissed from key positions in the public sector. University entrance requirements will change. The private education subsidy will be significantly altered or curtailed, with an obvious impact on Jewish education. Restrictions on transferring financial resources out of the country will become even more stringent.

Many countries, including those which have a large number of nationals in South Africa (such as Great Britain and Portugal), are preparing for any eventuality. It was recently announced that Great Britain is ready to evacuate 350,000 British subjects.

A situation of uncertainty exists regarding the personal safety of the population in the event that riots are instigated by extremists on both or either side.

Israel must be ready in case South Africa's Jews need to come

THE 110,000 Jews in South Africa, including 20,000 Israelis, are fortifying themselves. Many Jewish homes are surrounded by fences and walls. The majority of the South African Jewish communal leadership has hesitated to call for Jews to leave for Israel, causing confusion in their community.

Since the founding of the State of Israel, 17,000 South African Jews have made aliya. This is only 25 percent of all those who have left the country. Most went to other English-speaking countries.

In 1992, 200 immigrants arrived from South Africa. In 1993, 500 came. Based on the number who have opened aliya files, 1,200 are expected in 1994 (unless something dramatic happens).

The World Zionist Organization has clearly and frequently called upon the South African Jewish community to join us in Israel. The Jewish Agency is involved in several projects to encourage aliya and ease absorption. These include finding housing and employment for the prospective newcomers.

Many professionals – lawyers, accountants, doctors, dentists and technicians of all sorts – have traveled to South Africa to advise aliya candidates. Housing projects have been created in Ra'anana, Ashkelon and on several kibbutzim to aid the absorption of South African immigrants.

But the government has failed to make South African Jewry a priority. Clearly, it wishes to maintain good relations with Mandela (who has a close personal relationship with the leadership of the PLO).

The government must start by breaking through the bureaucratic barriers which have often delayed and stifled immigrants and Israelis wishing to return to their homeland and to create the special conditions that the present situation demands.

It must begin planning for a large-scale aliya that could develop should the storm break over the heads of South African Jewry.

Does history allow us any other course?

The writer is treasurer of the Jewish Agency and chairman of its committee for South African Affairs.

The cart before the horse

MALVINA HALBERSTAM

HOWEVER one views the Declaration of Principles, no one would deny that it involves an international commitment of major significance.

Those who support it believe it will bring peace and prosperity to Israel and the whole Middle East. Those who oppose it believe it threatens Israel's very existence. They fear it will result in great loss of life and possibly another Arab-Israeli war.

What no one disputes is that the impact on Israel, whether positive or negative, will be immense. Indeed, it is difficult to overstate the declaration's importance.

Yet the decision to enter into this agreement and its actual conclusion was done by the executive, without public debate and without parliamentary approval. Although it was eventually presented to the Knesset (and approved by a narrow majority) this was done only after Israel had already committed itself internationally.

Had the Knesset voted against the declaration, Israel would still have been bound by the agreement. Israel's failure to abide by its terms would have been a breach of its obligations under international law (assuming one accepts the view that an agreement between an organization and a state is binding under international law).

Compare that to what happened in the US with NAFTA, a trade agreement between the US and Mexico. That agreement was highly controversial.

Some, including the president, believed it would greatly benefit the US economy. Others believed it would lead to a major loss of American jobs. Clearly, NAFTA involved issues important to many Americans, though, equally clearly, not the life-and-death issues involved in the Declaration of Principles.

Although the president negotiated NAFTA, it was only concluded after it had been publicly debated and approved by a majority of Congress. Had Congress not approved NAFTA, the US would not have been bound internationally.

Signature by the executive prior to Senate approval for treaties generally indicates only an intention to enter into an agreement, not adherence to the agreement, and does not bind the US internationally.

A law requiring Knesset approval of international agreements before Israel commits itself is essential

Israel, apparently, does not require parliamentary approval of international agreements before they are concluded. There is an internal regulation requiring that treaties be presented to the Knesset before they are ratified. Not all agreements provide for ratification, however. Thus, prior Knesset approval can be avoided simply by omitting a provision for ratification.

THERE HAS also developed a practice that important political agreements are to be submitted to the Knesset before they are concluded. There is, however, apparently nothing to compel the executive to comply with that practice, as the conclusion of the Declaration of Principles demonstrates.

While Israel does not have a constitution, it does have basic laws. The Knesset should give serious consideration to the enactment of a basic law requiring that international agreements be approved by the Knesset *before* Israel enters into the agreement.

The enactment of such a law is especially important now that Israel has opted for direct election of the prime minister. Under the new system, the prime minister will not necessarily be the leader of a majority or coalition in the Knesset, and the possibility that the Knesset will not approve an agreement he negotiated is much greater.

A law requiring approval by the Knesset before an international agreement is concluded is essential if Israel is to avoid having to breach its international obligations, should the Knesset not approve an agreement negotiated by the prime minister.

Surely, in a democracy, it makes more sense to have the public debate and parliament vote on an agreement before the state is committed internationally rather than after.

The writer is a professor of international law and US foreign relations law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, and a former counselor on international law in the State Department.

True hero

RACELLE WEIMAN

MY family spent our Pesah vacation in Jerusalem enjoying some of our capital's wonderful sights – the museums, the Supreme Court, the Biblical Zoo.

But one special pilgrimage is engraved in my daughter's memory and mine – a visit to the Catholic cemetery on Mt. Zion to place a stone on Oskar Schindler's grave. It was an honor to pay respect to a true hero.

As Israelis, we spend a great deal of time on the idea of heroism. We try to build a sense of strength and empowerment in the minds of our young. Too often, we use only models of military or other physical force, seeking out only Jewish models. We minimize the incredible risks and accomplishments of the Righteous Gentiles that were "so few" – as if their uniqueness should not get attention, because these people were exceptions.

But what makes them so special is that they are exceptional.

The norm is to behave selfishly; they behaved altruistically. Their heroism is that they consciously took personal risks, refused to be part of the apathetic majority, and *chose* to "get involved." Their actions and those of countries such as Denmark and Bulgaria, prove it was possible to act differently.

The Holocaust teaches that one should never just walk on by

We now understand that the Nazis' most successful collaborator was the silence of the bystander. Martin Luther King said that "The greater sin is not bad people doing bad things, it is good people doing nothing."

We Israelis can learn from Oskar Schindler who, though no angel, taught us that we have choices when we witness injustice, wrongdoing and cruelty.

We honor Schindler not only for saving 1,200 Jewish lives, but also for giving us a role model for ethical action.

The highest form of heroism is sacrificing oneself to protect innocent lives, ignoring peer pressure, using one's conscience to fight against prejudice and inequity. We all need heroes like Schindler.

AS AN educator, I was deeply inspired by the Schindler presented in the Academy-award winning film. The film can be used to teach about individual responsibility, integrity and compassion.

There are profound scenes that could instill social values such as: Schindler's attempt to discuss the power of mercy with the Nazi commander; his attempt to get another "good" German industrialist to save Jews – only to be rejected; and his realization that he could have saved even more people. He felt responsible for others' deaths.

As a visiting scholar-in-residence in Canada, I modified a teaching unit on "Heroism" to include the film as an integral part. It is now being taught in Canadian high schools.

In Israel, my colleagues at Beit Lohamei Hageta'ot and Yad Vashem tell me there is no educational material planned to accompany the film. Sadly, many of the "professionals" seem still to have a very narrow definition of "lessons" of the Holocaust.

But Israeli teens are much more sophisticated. Many seek me out to discuss the film. Many see its moral imperative. It speaks to the core of their identity – not as victims, but as free citizens in their own state.

Most poignant was the view expressed by the younger brother of Ian Feinberg, the lawyer who was murdered in Gaza a year ago. Now a soldier, he found that the film guided him toward using his inner moral strength. It helped him not to allow fear and rage to control his conscience.

This young Israeli knows that the Holocaust should teach us never to be passive bystanders. We should take political and social risks to ensure a kinder, more compassionate world. We should get involved in local, national and global issues – particularly when human values are violated.

The writer is a lecturer at Haifa University on "The Holocaust and Its Impact: Jewish-Christian Relations."

POSTSCRIPTS

IN LOS Angeles, when someone says "Rob," they must mean Robert Brown.

The street-gang member was recently arrested and sentenced to 30 years in prison, after being implicated in 175 robberies over a four-year period.

That made him the all-time bank robbery champion of America. He's only 23 years old.

KERMIT THE FROG used to complain that "it isn't easy being green." Jaffa the Frog can relate. He's orange.

Patrick Felder of the village of Parkin Terrace, southwest England, found the oddly hued frog and turned him over to excited experts at the Cornwall Trust for Nature Conservation. Brightly colored frogs are common in the Amazon, but not in Cornwall.

"I have never seen anything like it before," said the trust's amphibian authority, Mark Nicholson. "If you put it next to an orange, it is the same color. This is exceptional."

Nicholson said Jaffa, about three years old, is a common frog that suffers from a genetic defect that deprives him of the pigment that makes common frogs green.

Felder named the frog Jaffa, after the Israeli oranges.

True hero

RACELLE WEIMAN

The Holocaust teaches that one should never just walk on by

The oldest profession for India's youngest

RANJAN ROY

NANDLALPURA, India

IN this village down a 5-km. dirt track from a busy highway, every woman is or was a prostitute and every girl child probably will become one.

It is how people of the Rajnat tribe survive these days.

Generations of Rajnat were traveling minstrels and dancers, dressed in brilliant turbans and swirling skirts of rainbow colors, welcomed in the sandstone fortresses of the maharajahs and queens who ruled the western desert.

Then. Indian royalty slipped into history, television put wandering folk troupes out of business and the Rajnat traded footloose make-believe for seamy reality.

Naina, who is eight, dreams of being a doctor. More likely, she will become like her sister Usha, a chubby-cheeked 13-year-old who approaches visitors with a seductive amble, fluttering eyelashes and pouting lips reddened with betel juice.

One day, Usha stood with her head down coquettishly as an aunt struck a deal with a man who had arrived on a motor scooter. She sent them into a family bedroom.

"The girls brought up in this atmosphere are soon putting on rouge and lipstick and are eager to earn their own money," said Kusum Jain, a social worker who visits Nandlalpura to encourage the use of condoms.

After she managed to persuade village women that unprotected sex was dangerous, their way of promoting condom use was simple: Charge men who refuse to use a condom 20 rupees (65 cents) more than the standard 50 rupees ($1.60).

If India is an AIDS time bomb, as scientists believe, Usha and Naina are among the fuses. India has tried to curb prostitution along its highways and spread the word about condoms, but with little success.

Women of the Bhediya tribe pose in a village in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. The tribe is one of many that live entirely from prostitution. (AP)

"What can we do? We have to earn a living," said Shyama, the eldest sister, brushing Naina's hair outside their three-room home of mud bricks. "The choice is dying of AIDS or dying of starvation."

Shyama, 30, was a prostitute for more than 15 years in the village and Bombay.

"I have six sisters and one brother," she said. "For years I supported them. Now that I am too old, they look after me."

MOST MEN in Nandlalpura are unemployed, except for ferrying customers in jeeps from the highway. They pass the time playing cards and drinking locally distilled liquor. Dust-caked children play as in other villages. The prostitution is part of life.

Hundreds of Nandlalpuras just off the major highways of India serve the sexual appetites of truck drivers and men from towns close by, in this case Jaipur and Ajmer.

The government tends to ignore them because of their reputations. Engineers laid power cables to nearby villages four years ago, but bypassed Nandlalpura.

Bhawani Shanker, who heads a social organization that conducted a two-year study of village prostitution, said the Rajnat and four other tribes operate 144 sex centers in Rajasthan state that range from villages to small towns.

He said at least 20,000 women were involved in the sex trade in the state's eastern provinces, the area his study covered. Most have never heard of AIDS or seen a condom and more than 2,000 are HIV-positive, meaning they carry the AIDS virus.

Highway prostitution is one of the biggest factors in the spread of AIDS all across India. The World Health Organization has identified India, Thailand and Taiwan as "the smoldering volcanos" of AIDS in Asia.

In 1986, shortly after the first AIDS case was discovered in southern India, a study in Bombay indicated that fewer than 1 percent of the city's 100,000 prostitutes were HIV-positive. The figure has grown to 35 percent.

Socially conservative India has been slow to heed the warning. Many Indians believe AIDS is a disease of the decadent West and does not threaten a country where contact between men and women outside marriage remains taboo.

Boy children are preferred elsewhere in male-dominated India, but in Nandlalpura and other sex villages, they are neglected, scruffy and ill fed. The girls wear clean frocks, their hair is brushed and braided, and, said Jain the social worker, they "are always given better food."

Nandlalpura has no medical clinic. Few of the children attend the nearest school, in a village 2 km. away, because they are teased by classmates and treated badly by the teachers.

Women in the village can earn middle-class incomes of 5,000 rupees, about $160 a month. In the last few years, some have begun saving to buy farmland for their families.

"In the old days, once in a while a prince would fall in love with one of the tribal girls and keep her in the palace in return for a piece of real estate for her family," Shanker said. "Otherwise, these people have been nomads."

(Associated Press)

Indian men run the village, but now women fix the water pump

JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG

SADACHIPATTI, India

IN the Madurai district, they still talk with wonder about how the women of this village, miles from the nearest paved road, dared take things into their own hands.

Sadachipatti has only one pump for drinking water, and it frequently breaks down. When villagers complain, it takes as long as five days for authorities to send somebody to fix it.

Meanwhile, the women have to trudge a quarter of a mile to a canal, fill up their heavy five-gallon water jars and lug them back on their heads under the fiery sun.

One momentous day five months back, years, or more likely whole centuries, of stoic patience snapped.

"This time, we got so fed up we decided to do it for ourselves," Shanti, 25, proudly recalls.

The mother of three at first glance has nothing of the revolutionary about her.

Deciding they had to depend on their own efforts, the 32 members of the women's council of the poor farming village collected two rupees – about 18 agorot – from each member, and had two high-school graduates fetch the needed parts and fix the pump.

For Sadachipatti and the surrounding area, that humble but measurable stab at what the theorists of social work call "empowerment" was an earthquake that made men, who run things around here, sit up and take notice.

"If somebody had told me 10 years ago that this would happen, I would have laughed at him," marveled Krishnaswamy Rajivan, who has a doctorate in economics from the University of Southern California and is district collector, or chief government official, for the Madurai area.

ACROSS THE southeastern state of Tamil Nadu, no fewer than 24,000 women's groups are endeavoring to better the often-brutish lives of more than 26 million women, sometimes with dazzling success. Most busy themselves with traditional women's duties such as child-rearing.

Greater literacy, the radicalizing presence of some Christian denominations and an ambitious state program to feed lunch to every school child has meant that there is more grass-roots women's activity here than in many states.

But across the country, often thanks to government funds or foreign donations, women have banded together to try to solve their problems.

In Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka, a government-sponsored program called Education for Women's Equality teaches women their rights, birth control, where to get legal aid and what they are entitled to in terms of land and property when they marry.

"It doesn't give them total literacy. It's consciousness-raising," explained Ritu Menon, cofounder of the New Delhi-based Kali for Women publishing house.

In Sadachipatti and countless other dusty, out-of-the-way places throughout the peninsula, grass-roots mobilization by women after generations of passive acceptance of life's hardships is often the sole alternative to official aid that is unlikely to materialize anyway.

"Any government official who comes here is after money," Yogaraj, a former army sergeant with a magnificent handlebar mustache and paunch who is now a rural village chief, says in a verdict that allows no appeal. "They cannot expect any help from the government."

This is empowerment at its most basic, tackling problems – such as a faulty pump – that relatively few women's groups in the United States or other Western countries have ever faced.

Women here who have sought education or dedicated themselves to improving the lives of their countrywomen may sometimes have sacrificed their chances for marriage and a family.

Then again, there are parallels with other, richer countries.

For example, if American women have had to battle banks and private companies for the right to have their own charge and bank accounts, in rural Tamil Nadu they have had to circumvent usurious moneylenders.

To break the usurers' power, and to secure access to credit and the clout it carries, Sadachipatti's women created their own savings bank, and socked away 8,000 rupees, or about NIS 780 – a fortune here.

They lend money to members of the women's union at 3 percent, instead of the moneylenders' 10 percent. And this is no isolated example.

Throughout the Usilampatti subdistrict 25 miles west of Madurai, women's savings cooperatives now boast more than $55,000 in combined assets.

At meetings, the women decide whom to lend money to for the purchase of milch animals, a shop or farmland. The co-ops' default rate is an impressively low 2 percent.

"Their board minutes would put Westinghouse or AT&T to shame," an admiring Rajivan says.

THESE ARE all beacons of encouraging change in what, for India's poor rural women, is an otherwise bleak landscape.

In February, 600 delegates from throughout the nation convened in New Delhi to hold the All India Women's Conference, an event sponsored by the country's extreme left.

They reeled off a gruesome, state-by-state litany of problems: rape, molestation, sexual harassment, wife-beating, discrimination, murder of wives because their husbands were not content with the dowries they brought.

One recent and alarming trend, delegates reported, is the parading of village women naked through the streets to shame them, as happened to an impoverished woman in January in the North Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Her offense: Her son had slapped a boy from a higher caste for stealing some peas.

For many, the conference was a sober time for taking stock.

Many Indian women's activists and feminists say the seminal moment for them came when the UN announced its "Decade for Women" in 1975.

Since then, Indian women have amassed enough influence and stirred sufficient debate so that a national Commission for Women was set up two years ago. There is some talk about reserving 33 percent of positions in political parties for women.

But activists such as Menon say it is not enough to change laws or claim a share of cushy jobs. India's constitution already guarantees women equality before the law. What's also needed is to change women's lives.

THE CAMPUS of Delhi University – where the leftist-sponsored conference took place with its ardent rhetoric about the "fascist forces" of sexism – is a long, long way from Sadachipatti, population 870. There, goat herders coax their flocks down dusty, unpaved roads, and the rare spectacle of an arriving automobile brings barefoot children on the run.

A few weeks ago, members of the women's council assembled eagerly to talk about their famous deed. As they sat on the earthen floor of a dimly lit, single-story whitewashed bungalow made of sunbaked mud, whose threshold was chalked with arabesques to ward off evil, a visitor asked them why only they, and not the village menfolk too, had raised a fuss about the pump. After all, didn't men drink water too?

That question, the product of a logic so alien to the sexual division of labor that has prevailed here for centuries, seemed to startle the women. It was like asking why the village men did not give birth.

"You see, water is essential for a woman to run her house," explained a middle-aged woman who wore a jewel-encrusted stud in each nostril. "To cook food, to clean, a woman needs water. A man doesn't need water for his work. He works in the fields."

In Sadachipatti, women's work includes scrounging for firewood and bringing great bundles home on their heads to cook with.

Women troop out to the nearest paved road, the hardest and flattest place around, to thresh rice and millet against the pavement.

In fact, most of the rural women's groups created by government impetus in Tamil Nadu deal with matters that have traditionally been the affairs of women: family nutrition and the rearing of children. (Los Angeles Times)

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Christopher to face uphill battle during visit

Even as Israel and the Arabs near further accords, problems among Jordan, Syria and the PLO pose a crisis for the regional talks, **Pinhas Inbari** writes

SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher, who is visiting the region, faces a paradox here: The Palestinians and Israelis *seem on the brink of an* agreement, but Israel's neighbors seem bent on sabotaging it.

For Christopher, the central concern is whether a massive effort can be made to clinch a PLO-Israel accord, even as Jordan and Syria appear dead set against such a development.

Jordan has been acting as a silent but effective partner to Syria's *increasingly strident demand that* PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat be pushed aside, in order to achieve a regional settlement.

The Jordanian-Syrian entente has helped make some strange bedfellows of the different Palestinian factions who, for various reasons, oppose the Oslo process or the way Arafat is handling the negotiations.

Naif Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which opposes the Camp David Accords and the Declaration of Principles (DOP), is drawing closer to the position of the People's Party (Communists), which had supported talks with Israel, but is now demanding they be conducted with local Palestinians and not the leaders in Tunis.

Al-Huriyya, the DFLP's newspaper, published a small item on April 3 in which Taysir Khaled, *the DFLP's representative to the* PLO Executive Committee, lauded the call by Communist leader Bashir Baghouti to suspend talks with Israel.

At a meeting of students at Bir Zeit University, Baghouti had called for an urgent meeting of forces "who support the agreement [the DOP] and those who oppose it" at which working papers *for the Palestine* National Council (PNC) on various subjects would be written.

This, it was argued, would be the basis for establishing a democratic infrastructure in the areas.

"We will begin with the inside and we will conclude with the inside," said Baghouti, stressing the role of local Palestinians, as opposed to the Tunis-based PLO leaders.

"National action has moved to the 'inside' which will fulfill its obligation to stand against the leadership [the PLO] which has placed the whole nation inside a dark and sealed tunnel," he continued.

While this is a cooperative effort by the DFLP and the communists to try to unseat Arafat, it is only part of a much larger and broader-based alliance pushing for this.

During his meetings with Palestinians, Jordanians and Syrians in Amman and Damascus, Christopher will have to discern whether the opposition to Arafat is basically an ultimatum: If the PLO leader stays, then the talks will be frozen *or torpedoed.*

THE SIGNS are that Jordan and Syria are unalterably opposed to Arafat, and they have both taken operative steps to freeze their talks with Israel, although Jordan has been careful to shroud this in a demand tying resuming the talks to suspending the US-led blockade of the port of Akaba, which is *aimed at Iraq but is squeezing Jordan* as well.

Syria has been much more open, saying bluntly that it will not allow the implementation of the Cairo agreements concerning the DOP. This determined Syrian position was at the root of recent friction between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Mubarak asked Assad to meet Yitzhak Rabin rather than Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran, and Assad told Mubarak not to encourage Arafat to continue the Cairo talks.

Israel has publicly expressed its anger with Jordan for its accommodation of Hamas and other groups opposed to the DOP. Moreover, it appears to be no accident that King Hussein has taken to making very strong statements on Islamic holy places in *Jerusalem, has financed the restoration* of the Dome of the Rock, and has even begun sporting a beard once again.

As for the PLO, during the Dome of the Rock ceremony, Hussein pointedly did not mention the PLO at all. Arafat did not dispatch any PLO representatives to the ceremony, but Faisal Husseini showed up anyway, along *with a sizable contingent of Fatah* leaders from Nablus.

Fatah leaders have also visited Amman against Arafat's wishes. This fits in with DFLP official Taysir Khaled's comments that the local "inside" Palestinian leadership is now central to the process.

It also fits well with the Syrian demand that talks with Israel be returned from the Oslo track to *the Madrid framework, which* would emphasize the role of local Palestinians, pushing aside the PLO.

It is likely that Assad will tell this to Christopher. Indeed, it would not be a surprising if Assad told the secretary of state that the removal of Arafat is as crucial for the Arabs as achieving a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Pinhas Inbari is Arab affairs commentator for the Al Hamishmar *daily and the Kyodo News Service.*

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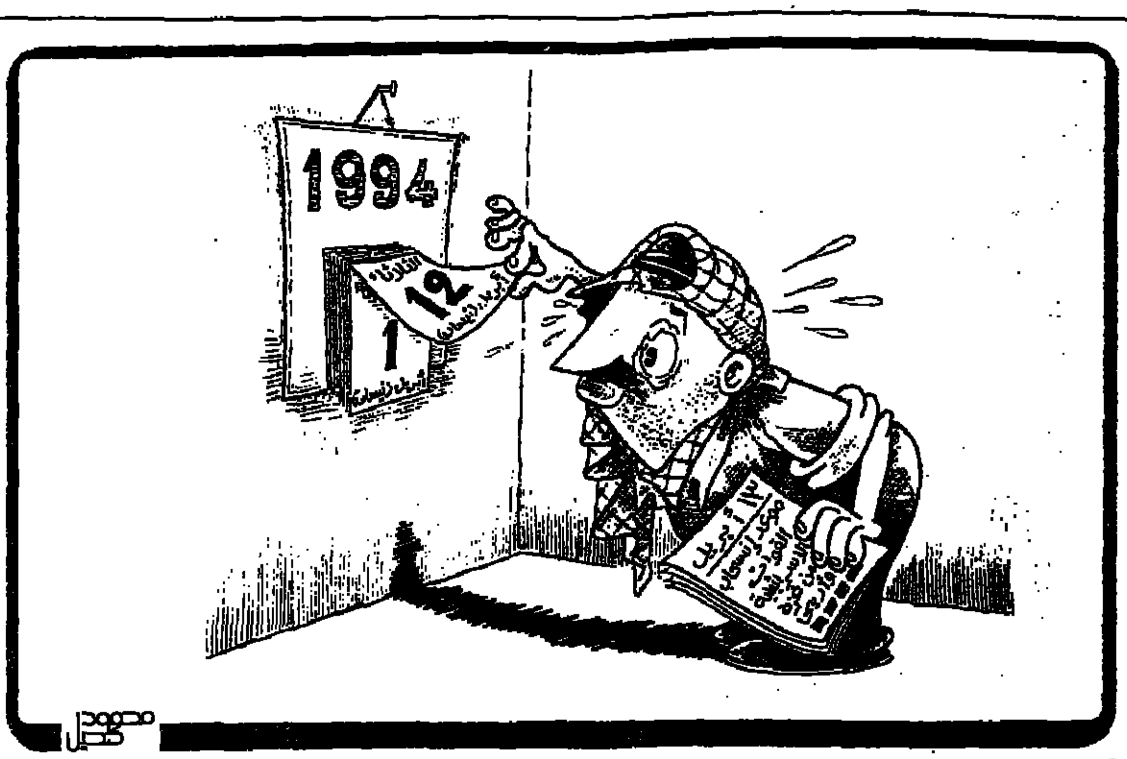

APRIL'S FOOL? – As the April 13 target date for Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho passed without progress, PLO leader Yasser Arafat finds that all subsequent days on the calendar come up April 1. ('Al-Sharq al-Awsat,' London)

King Hussein stiff-arms US over regional talks

AMMAN – *Even as King Hussein* prepares to meet with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher in London this week, Jordan has so far refused to accept American requests to return to formal negotiations with Israel, according to a Jordanian newspaper.

The king is said to differ with his prime minister, Abdel-Salaam Al-Majali (who had been his chief *negotiator) concerning* America's desire that Jordan immediately sign a declaration of principles *with Israel,* help *facilitate* an end to the Arab boycott of Israel, and take a more active role in regional economic talks.

Jordan is reported to be upset at the low level of aid it currently receives from Washington, and it also wants to see an end to the American-led quarantine of Akaba that is aimed at preventing goods from reaching Iraq from the *Jordanian port.*

The newspaper also said King Hussein does not believe that he can take a position significantly different from Syria's concerning the total approach to Arab-Israeli talks. (*Al-Shihan*, April 21)

ARAB NEWS DIGEST

RUSSIAN DELEGATION IN SYRIA

DAMASCUS – A high-level Russian *trade delegation began two* days of meetings here Monday designed to enhance Russian-Syrian economic cooperation.

The Russian team, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovitch, is interested in the repayment of loans made by the Soviet Union to Syria when the Soviets were Syria's main arms supplier in the 1980s. The sums are said to reach billions of dollars.

"The two countries have long-standing relations which we want to develop," Soskovitch said. (Wire services, April 25)

LEADING MOSLEM RADICAL AND FOUR OTHERS KILLED

CAIRO – Egyptian security sources said Monday that the leader of the radical Gema'at al-Islamiyya – and four of his followers – was killed in a shoot-out with police on the northwestern outskirts of this city.

Talaat Yassin Hamam, who had been sentenced to death in absen*tia two years ago, was considered* the leader of the military wing of the Gema'at, in particular those known as "veterans of the Afghani war." (Itim, April 25)

KUWAIT MOVING AGAINST FUNDAMENTALISTS

KUWAIT – A Kuwaiti newspaper has called on its government to take a firm stand against Moslem fundamentalist movements here.

"The phenomenon of extremism threatens to sow discord among us,' *Al-Siyassa*, the Kuwaiti paper which is close to the government, said.

Last Tuesday the government moved to close a fundamentalist newspaper, *Al-Mujtami'a*, for se*ditious remarks.* The Moslems have been angered by the new Kuwaiti government – announced 10 days ago – which includes only one religious minister as opposed to the three religious men previously in the cabinet.

Al-Mujtami'a had also criticized the Egyptian government for the strong steps it has taken against its Moslem radicals. (*Al-Siyassa* and *wire services,* April 25)

IRAN: FIRST BLOOD, NOW FROGS

TEHERAN – Iran, first plagued by bloodshed, now faces a Bible-style plague of frogs. Iranian officials said an unusual heatwave had led to rapid reproduction of the frogs in the northern part of the country. Farmers reported their *rice crops had been damaged by* the infestation. (*Iranian News Service,* April 23) ***M.D.W.***

Michael Widlanski edits the Middle East Page.

Comics strip veil off Arab society

الحياة الثقافية
CULTURE NOTES

COMIC STRIPS: Politics of an Emerging Mass Culture by Allen Douglas and Fedwa Malti-Douglas. Indiana University Press. 256 pp. $39.95 cloth, $19.95 paper.

COMIC strips are like jokes, and as any child or aspiring humorist will tell you, they are not just a laughing matter.

They are often social commentary, and frequently are a way of avoiding censorship in an undemocratic society.

And they are often a rung on the educational ladder between pictures and unillustrated texts. This is especially true in the Arab world where the literary language, *fusha*, is so difficult and where the spoken dialect, *al-'amiyya*, is so remote from the grammatically sanctioned written word.

This wonderfully written and *copiously annotated analysis* plumbs a largely ignored field of Arab literature – the comic strips of the Arab world (depending on locale, written in either Arabic or French).

Arab comic strips seem, at first glance, to be a product imported from the West with little impact on or relevance to Arab society, but this impression is misleading.

"Comics, like other popular magazines, are often passed from one reader to another, and this process is especially important in poorer countries," Allen and Fedwa Douglas write.

From this reviewer's personal *experience, it is common in Jerusalem,* for example, for a newspaper to be read by six to 10 people, and with comic strips, distribution and rereading is probably still *greater.*

The authors say that the redistribution of old comic books means that all classes of Arab society eventually read the same material.

TO ENSURE a wide audience *spanning the dialectical differ*ences of individual countries, most Arab comics are written in the literary language in simplified style, with the North African *countries (the Maghreb that often* uses French for comics) also employing a fully vocalized text.

The authors note that the comics often play a "pedagogic role," a tool for imparting the skills of reading, and this is one of the reasons that they are keenly watched by government officials.

The other reason is that most Arabs appreciate that the finest political statement is a satiric joke, and the largely authoritarian regimes of the Arab world are aware of the potential of comic strips.

"Political debate undergoes varying degrees of censorship in *most Arab countries," the authors* note, adding that "the most notable result has been to push politics and political implications into other areas, such as literature and poetry."

Comic strips "have been no exception," the authors say, and it is therefore no accident *that even in* countries such as Jordan and Egypt, where more political freedoms are allowed, governments try to influence comic-strip writers and illustrators by financial means: direct ownership, subsidies, control of paper supplies and other devices.

Arab comic strips tackle all subjects, from the sanctity of the Ka'aba shrine in Mecca to nationalization of the Suez Canal in *1967, as well as Soviet-American* involvement in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The book covers the image-building of Saddam in Iraq to the *bilingual politics of Algeria,* Mickey Mouse's reception in Cairo and the Syrian Ba'ath Party's use of the funny pages.

This may sound daunting to the average non-Arabic-reading reader, but it is skillfully explained by the authors in a way that will be enlightening for the layman.

In fact, just as Arabic comics are a useful teaching device for learning Arabic, this book may be an outstanding way to teach the Western reader about the Arab world, its culture and its politics.

Arab ComicStrips
Politics of an Emerging Mass Culture
Allen Douglas and Fedwa Malti-Douglas

FAITH AND COMICS – 'Thank God the preparations for travel are finished and tomorrow I'll be in holy Mecca,' a father tells his family in a comic strip featured on the cover of a new book on comics' role in Arab culture.

Coming in from the cold

As the DOP is implemented, it will get more difficult to deploy undercover agents in the areas, **Michael Widlanski** reports

THE *implementation* of the Declaration of Principles may spell the end for the use of that most precious of intelligence assets: undercover agents.

The use of such operatives – employed by police, the IDF and the General Security Service – was dangerous even when Israel had exclusive police powers in the territories, but it will be still more dangerous and perhaps impossible when Israel hands over authority.

Israel's *ability to enlist* local agents by offering inducements – such as money or approval for trips abroad – or sanctions – imprisonment or barring access to jobs or higher education – will be hindered.

It will also be much harder for Israel to recruit or protect its agents, though in recent years it has already been increasingly difficult *to maintain* field agents.

"It's very easy to get burned," said "Eddie," an IDF officer who helps train members of the Shimshon and Duvdevan undercover units. "If you don't hold your cigarette the way an Arab holds a cigarette, it doesn't matter how good your Arabic accent is, you've been burned."

A member of another elite IDF *unit described how a whole unit of* undercover agents was "burned" when one of the agents smoked a cigarette during Ramadan – a violation of the daytime fast.

"Everyone immediately knew that they were not Moslems," the officer said.

"Getting burned," means having one's false identity exposed. This can put the agent in danger, or at the very least make him ineffective. When this happens, the army, police or GSS have no choice but to either pull the "burned" agents from the field entirely or shift them, for example, from Hebron to Jenin.

But of course, getting "burned" in this respect is not the worst danger of working undercover. Noam Cohen, a GSS agent, was *murdered earlier this year in* Ramallah when an Arab informer betrayed him.

RECENTLY, THE the PLO and Hamas, the two Palestinian groups that will vie for control of the territories, have agreed – for the next *three to four weeks – to* offer a "pardon" to Arabs who have cooperated with Israel. One way to earn a "pardon" is by setting an ambush for one's controlling GSS agent or by betraying a squad of undercover soldiers.

The PLO or Hamas then gains one or more things: the liquidation of the Israeli operation, the killing or wounding of the Israeli agent or agents, *and the capture of* weapons.

The defection of Arab agents and the subsequent injury or death to Israeli agents could also serve as a deterrent against future "collaboration" with Israel.

In the village of Fahmeh, not far from Jenin, about 70 Arab families – all of them agents for Israel – are housed under the watchful eyes of the army.

As the expected PLO takeover ensues, the inhabitants of Fahmeh – most of whom carry IDF-supplied handguns – will have to relocate to Israel or abroad.

"Even Yasser Arafat himself will not be able to protect those who cooperated with Israel," declared a senior Fatah official in Gaza told Israel Radio this week.

Arab states, PLO: What was determines what next

MICHAEL WIDLANSKI

THE CRYSTALLIZATION OF THE ARAB STATE SYSTEM 1945-1954 by Bruce Maddy-Weitzman. Syracuse University Press. 253 pp. $38.95 (hardcover), $18.95 (paper).

EVOLUTION UNTIL VICTORY?: The Politics and History of the PLO by Barry Rubin. Harvard University Press. 271 pp. $24.95.

AS Arabs and Israelis contemplate what Shimon Peres calls "the New Middle East" and what George Bush called "the New World Order," it is important to understand that where we've been helps determine where we may be going.

Two new offerings that may offer some insight have been written by Dr. Bruce Maddy-Weitzman of the Dayan Center for Middle East and African Studies at Tel Aviv University and by Dr. Barry Rubin, a prolific academic analyst, now teaching at Tel Aviv and Hebrew universities.

Maddy-Weitzman offers a sobering *assessment of the ability* of Arab states and differing Arab elites to unite politically or even to cooperate economically.

The US-born researcher focuses well on the factors that could have brought the Arabs closer together without neglecting the many patterns that kept states apart.

Maddy-Weitzman contributes a larger systemic analysis than pro*vided by earlier writers such as* Malcolm Kerr (who concentrated on Abdul-Nasser), focusing on more than one leader as well as the impact of foreign interventions in what was a period of awakening and turbulence in the Arab world.

"During these years, Arab leaders faced a test of one of the central principles of Arab nationalist *ideology, the imperative unifying* into a single entity those areas populated by speakers of Arabic," the author writes.

As some leaders, particularly Foreign Minister Peres, have touted the possibilities of regional economic cooperation, it is wise to recall Maddy-Weitzman's observation about "the insignificance of the economic dimension" during the formative years of the Arab League.

"If the Arabs *themselves, during* a period of new political alignment, largely ignored the possibilities of economic cooperation among themselves, is it likely that vast Arab-Israeli enterprises will soon materialize? In the end, Maddy-Weitzman has offered the reader a cogent explanation of "the relationship between the vision of Arab nationalism and the reality of Arab particularism" – or, as he puts it: "How did the latter come to block the former?"

As Israel and the Arab world seem to be moving into a new regional system, Maddy-Weitzman's observations on the tensions between visions and reality, between grand regional projects and innate obstacles, are useful correctives for the overly rose-tinted lenses worn by some regional visionaries.

BARRY RUBIN has a justified reputation as a quick study and a flowing writer, having produced seven books ranging from America's experience in Iran to Egyptian fundamentalism.

"Yasser Arafat's moment of victory and moment of surrender were one and the same as he *shook hands with* Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on September 13, 1993," Rubin writes in the first sentence of his book.

He explains how the organization came to accept peace with the state it had been founded expressly to destroy.

"At the regional *level, 40 years* of Arab rejection of Israel, a quarter-century of PLO armed struggle, and a mass uprising had brought no tangible material gain for the Palestinian people," Rubin writes.

The intifada was a war of attrition in which Israel was *the stronger* power, having "brought the Palestinian economic and social infrastructure to the verge of collapse."

This strong economic force pushed local Palestinians toward what Haidar Abdel-Shafi called the willingness to accept "*pragmatic justice*" as opposed to "absolute justice" – in other words, the two-state solution.

Similar economic pressure – the impending financial collapse of *the PLO* – was a major motive for Arafat's willingness to make promises of peace and recognition.

The author does not confine himself to the PLO *side of the* equation, duly observing the pressures on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government.

"Rabin, too, had linked his political future with success in *the* peace process, repeatedly predicting an imminent agreement with the Palestinians from the time he took office," according to Rubin.

Rubin's observations are well written and well documented, but one cannot escape the fear that even his proven abilities as a quick study and a quick writer are being overtaken by the rapidity of unfolding developments.

For example, Rubin's view that Arafat had become "*an enthusiastic advocate for the idea of a transitional solution taking several years and stages to build confidence*" does not seem to be borne out by Arafat's behavior in recent months.

Despite the danger of being overtaken by events, Rubin's latest book is the best early analysis of the makings of the Israeli-PLO accords. History will write the last word.

هكذا من الأصل

THE JERUSALEM POST

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Interest rates on credit fall

JOSE ROSENFELD

INTEREST rates on credit fell in March, while commercial banks paid higher interest on deposits, causing their financial profit margins to shrink slightly, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

Consumers paid last month an average annual interest rate on their overdrafts of 17.36 percent, down from 17.66% in February.

Average interest on credit to the public fell to 15.29% from 15.54% in February. Fixed-term interest on credit also decreased to 13.74% from 13.92%.

By contrast, interest on deposits rose to 8.46% from 8.39% in February. Short-term deposits increased to 10.2% from 10.13%, while fixed-term deposits remained unchanged at 9.56%.

The banks' profit margin from transactions with the public fell to 6.83% from 7.15% in February, while their financial margin for all transactions decreased to 5.17% from 5.32%.

The amount of credit available to the public grew to NIS 47.6 billion from NIS 47b. in February.

Bank of Israel Supervisor of Banks department officials noted that the amount of available credit has steadily increased since last December, when it stood at NIS 44.5b.

Central bank officials have pointed to those increases, representing a significant rise in the money supply, as an indicator of rising inflation.

The total amount of the public's deposits also rose to NIS 40.7b. from NIS 37.6b. in February. By contrast, Bank of Israel loans to commercial banks fell to NIS 15.9b. from NIS 17.3b.

Industrial production up 15%

Experts fear drop in second quarter

JOSE ROSENFELD

INDUSTRIAL production grew at an annual rate of 15 percent in the first two months of the year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The rise follows increases of 7% to 9% in the last third of last year and 14% in the second third.

Jonathan Katz, head of Economic Modeling and Forecasting, attributed the dramatic rise to the fact that industrial production failed to keep up with last year's increase in industrial exports and consumption.

As a result, industrial stocks fell, causing industries to boost production to replenish depleted inventories.

Katz said these production figures are further proof that the economy will grow at about 5% in the first quarter. However, he is less sanguine about the second quarter.

"Everyone is more concerned about the second quarter," said Katz. "That's when the effect of the closure and the construction slowdown will have an impact."

A significant portion of industrial output will fall as the production of construction materials adjusts to limited demand, said Katz. Therefore, he predicted industrial productivity as a whole will fall in the second quarter.

The bureau also announced that increases in employment lagged behind the expansion of industrial productivity. While work hours rose at an annual rate of 5% in January and April, employment only went up 3%.

Katz noted that the lag was a long-term trend. The work week averaged about 38 hours in 1988, while at the end of last year it had gone up to 41.4 hours, he said.

Katz explained that usually when industries are pessimistic about the future, they increase overtime. Only if optimistic do they hire more workers. However, the continued rise in overtime has surprised economists, who expected it to have reached the saturation point.

According to Katz, industries' marked reliance on overtime may reflect the fact that it is costlier to hire a new worker than pay overtime.

In addition, Israeli workers may have had to work more hours to partially compensate for the loss of workers from the territories due to the closure, said Katz.

3 Gmulot workers, questioned about alleged stock fraud, return to work

Securities Authority continues interrogating Tsuberi for second day

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THREE of the four Gmulot workers questioned on Monday in connection with alleged stock manipulation returned to work yesterday.

The Securities Authority yesterday continued to question deputy managing director Ayalon Tsuberi

Gmulot, Bank Hapoalim's investment company for provident funds, manages investments valued at NIS 28 billion. The company employs five workers.

"Of the four Gmulot employees invited to the Securities Authority yesterday [Monday] morning, three [including managing director Shmuel Dagen] returned to their homes during the course of the evening and at night," Dr. Shimon Ravid, joint managing director of Bank Hapoalim and in charge of the bank's securities division, said at a press conference. "Since this morning, at 7.30 a.m., they are back at their jobs, working as usual. There is no problem."

Ravid said the Securities Authority has instructed the Gmulot workers not to reveal the reason why they were called in for questioning.

"To the best of our knowledge, one worker is still at the Securities Authority," Ravid said. "We are not in touch with him. We don't know what they want from him, but we assume we'll be informed in the near future."

Bank Hapoalim joint managing director Dr. Shimon Ravid (right) addresses the press yesterday in Tel Aviv with Yehuda Drori, Gmulot chairman of the board. (Hanoch Grisitzky/Israel Sun)

He emphasized that the Securities Authority's investigation is not against the bank or Gmulot.

"One worker did not return to work," Ravid said. "We hope everything will end well, but if God forbid it does not, that can happen in every large institution. If [Tsuberi] is not cleared, we will have to consider the implications. We continue to emphasize that the bank has total confidence in its people and its capital market division. We would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the system is not corrupt."

Ravid rejected reports that Bank Hapoalim should have taken action against Tsuberi previously after capital market sources spread rumors of his involvement in stock manipulation.

The Securities Authority investigated Tsuberi several years in connection with investments in Elcol's securities when he was employed with a Bank Hapoalim mutual fund company, but it did not turn up anything against him.

"To the best of my knowledge, he was checked out before his current appointment," Ravid said. "We inspected and found there was no reason not to appoint him. He received clearance. We don't think it is right to judge a person or transfer him from one job to another solely on the basis of rumors.

"I am aware of the rumors spread the last few months," he said. "We inspected the system, and did not discover anything which is against the law. I hope Tsuberi will be innocent, but ... if they find something against him, it has to be in more than one place ... Theoretically, one has to assume that for every capital market transaction there is an opposite transaction somewhere. If a person is engaged in embezzlement, it is impossible for him to do it on his own."

Carmel Bank's board, Abeles meet over dispute with shareholders

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

CARMEL Bank's board of directors met with Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles in an attempt to reach a compromise agreement between him and the bank's major shareholders.

One of the proposals at the meeting on Monday night was to add the Engineers Fund's shares to the package of shares representing controlling interest in Carmel Bank.

The Engineers Fund has a nine percent share of the bank's issued shareholders capital.

The proposal would dilute the major shareholders share in the bank to 16%.

Haim Katzman, Rafael Reich and Eitan Shamir, who together hold 38% of the bank's shares, yesterday refused to react to the proposal to combine the engineers fund.

The shareholders demand that Abeles stick to the agreement reached last July in which their ownership permit would be updated.

That agreement was expected to dilute the shareholders' holding to 26% of the bank's issued shareholders capital.

The amendment was subject to a number of conditions, but Abeles denies an agreement was concluded, and instead presented new demands.

According to those new conditions, the owners would have to sell shares in a package comprising 25% of the bank's shares. The group to which they are sold would then receive the Bank of Israel's approval to gain control of the bank.

The directors said the ongoing conflict between the major shareholders and Abeles is likely to hinder the bank's operations.

They said Carmel Bank's situation has significantly improved since Rami Avivi was appointed managing director last June.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Shoham signs contract with Air France to reconfigure 747-200: Shoham, a subsidiary of Israel Aircraft Industries, signed a contract with Air France to reconfigure the company's 747-200 aircraft into solely a cargo plane.

Evergreen completes private placement on behalf of Paz Chen: Evergreen International has completed a private placement on behalf of jewelry manufacturer Paz Chen to raise $7.5 million.

The issue comprises $6m. in shares and $1.5m. in convertible bonds and warrants. Chief among the companies participating were the provident funds of Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, United Mizrahi Bank and Israel Discount Bank, the compensation funds of the American-Israel Bank and the Maritime Bank, Menorah Insurance, private funds and Evergreen Canada-Israel Investments Ltd.

Koor, Warning wins tender to instal laser system at prisons: Koor Communications and Warning announced it has won a tender to instal a laser system valued at $60,000 to secure prisons. The system is capable of transmitting and receiving up to seven laser beams within a 150 square meter range.

Fogel committee discusses implementation of ILA decisions: The Fogel committee reviewing the implementation of Israel Lands Administration decisions setting the parameters for changing the designation of agricultural land to residential land and its sale, yesterday discussed the business, planning and tax implications of those decisions, the Treasury reported.

The committee met with kibbutz and moshav movement representatives to hear their views. The provisions are aimed at benefiting those movements and help them repay their enormous debts. The Treasury denied reports that Treasury director-general Aharon Fogel intended to reduce the benefits the ILA decision provide the kibbutzim and moshavim.

Avner asks court to order Eliahu to honor its agreement: Avner, the company that manages all compulsory auto insurance, yesterday asked the Tel Aviv District Court to order the Eliahu insurance company to honor its agreement with it, which runs through 1997. Eliahu had informed Avner it is no longer obligated to keep the agreement under which it pays accident victims Avner's part of their claims.

Avner maintained that Eliahu informed it that it is considering lowering its rates to cover past losses incurred by fulfilling its obligation to Avner, thus damaging the entire framework on which compulsory insurance is based. Avner emphasized that if other insurance companies followed Eliahu, the whole system of compulsory insurance could collapse. Avner asked the court to order Eliahu not to operate, as it informed Avner it would in February, until it issues a final ruling on whether Eliahu can cancel the agreement between them.

Bezek, Poalim Inv. to finance $12m. project in Hungary

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEK signed an agreement yesterday with Poalim Investments for cooperation in the financing of a development project in Hungary.

The $12 million deal was signed by Bezek managing director Yitzhak Kaul and Poalim Investment manager Uri Levitt.

The entire project for building and maintaining 100,000 phone lines in three districts in southern Hungary will total $70m. The rest of the funds will come from the World Bank and additional international financing sources.

Kaul said the project is the biggest ever by Hungarian and Israeli companies and a big step toward Bezek's strategy of forging partnerships for overseas work.

Granit Hacarmel Investments buys industrial park in Rosh Ha'ayin

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

GRANIT Hacarmel Investments has acquired control of 50 percent of an industrial park in Rosh Ha'ayin for NIS 34.4 million, the company announced yesterday.

The company has invested in Civil Park, which will include five buildings for high tech industries and office space on a total area of 31,000 square meters.

According to the agreement, Granit has acquired half the real estate space and will be involved in management of the development.

The agreement states that Granit Hacarmel will receive a minimum yield from rent, after deduction of expenses, of 4.25% in the first year and 5.5% in the following six years.

Civil Park is the first development constructed in Rosh Ha'ayin's new industrial zone, which is expected to cover a total area of 300 dunams.

The first building stage is scheduled to end next January and the second stage the following May.

Granit Hacarmel said the purchase is in the framework of the group's plans to increase its involvement in the real estate sector.

The group currently owns real estate assets valued at $25 million, including a partnership in the Lev Magor development in Holon and a 50% ownership of the Canor center in Or Yehuda.

The group said it is in the midst of examining additional investment proposals in the real estate field.

Rafael workers plan strike today after court cancels injunctions

YIGAL KOTZER

RAFAEL workers plan to launch sanctions this morning aimed at disrupting work at their Haifa Bay suburbs plant.

The decision to strike was made after the Haifa District Labor Court canceled injunctions against such action and allowed them to take actions preventing Rafael's privatization.

As a result, the workers' strike committee called on the workers not to follow orders from management regarding the dismantling of the unit providing services to the factory's various divisions.

"The Rafael management's move and its faulty management will cause the nation severe economic damage, and additional expenditures of NIS 50 million because of the planned decentralization of the purchase and installation functions, which are centralized in any normal factory," a strike committee spokesman said.

Meanwhile, several senior Rafael workers, including the deputy managing director for research and development, have indicated they are interested in quitting, after disagreements with management over implementation of the privatization plan. A division head quit about a month ago.

Zion Holdings announces NIS 3.04 million net profit

RACHEL NEIMAN

ZION Holdings Ltd., the parent company of Zion Insurance Co. Ltd., has announced net profits of NIS 3.04 million for last year.

The company showed a disappointing loss of NIS 690,000 in 1992, but was buoyed by a public offering of subsidiary Guilio Moda Ltd., which brought in a capital gain of NIS 3.25m.

Zion Holdings now owns 34.5 percent of the company.

Zion Insurance says it posted NIS 2m. in net profits.

Total earnings from life insurance premiums were NIS 166m. and total earnings were NIS 144m.

Total earnings from general insurance were some NIS 101m.

Insurance claims reached some NIS 106m., a 3.4% improvement over last year, according to the company.

This followed a reinforcement of compulsory auto insurance claim reserves, valued at NIS 2.1m.

The company's new headquarters on Rothschild Boulevard were completed, with fourth quarter rental profits bringing in some NIS 1.2m.

Another subsidiary, Zion Agencies Ltd. is in advanced negotiations to acquire both 42% on rights in Yedidim Holdings Ltd. and 28% of capital and control of Yedidim Assurance Co. Ltd., which holds 42% of Yedidim Holdings.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Number of charter passengers through Ben-Gurion Airport rises 82% in March

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE number of charter passengers to and from Ben-Gurion Airport during March rose 82 percent to 83,000 from 45,0000 over the same time last year, according to statistics provided by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Charter passengers constituted 17% of those passing through the airport, up from 13% in March 1993.

The statistics are particularly interesting in view of the recent decision to liberalize air transport policy and allow greater freedom to charter flights.

El Al increased its passenger load 20% to 193,000 from 161,000, but its share of the total market fell from 42% to 40%.

The leading foreign carrier was Lufthansa, which showed a 20% increase with 22,000 passengers. Following were TWA, with 21,000 and Tower Air and British Airways, with 16,000 passengers each.

Meanwhile, airlines flying to the US, which had prepared for a large demand, have been cutting back on the number of seats.

El Al has canceled 14 morning flights, Tower has canceled 10 flights and TWA has been using slightly smaller aircraft, with about 15% fewer seats, on some of its flights.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (26.4.94)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	3.500	3.875	4.500
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.625	3.750	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.375	4.375	4.375
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.875	3.000	3.000
Yen (10 million yen)	0.625	0.750	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (26.4.94)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.2330	3.2780	—	—	3.2518
U.S. dollar	2.9891	3.0312	2.93	3.07	3.0070
German mark	1.7768	1.8016	1.74	1.82	1.7863
Pound sterling	4.4463	4.5088	4.35	4.56	4.4783
French franc	0.5176	0.5249	0.50	0.53	0.5205
Japanese yen (100)	2.9020	2.9429	2.84	2.98	2.9190
Dutch florin	1.5811	1.6034	1.56	1.62	1.5891
Swiss franc	2.0794	2.1087	2.04	2.14	2.0923
Swedish krone	0.3808	0.3862	0.37	0.39	0.3829
Norwegian krone	0.4090	0.4147	0.40	0.42	0.4114
Danish krone	0.4524	0.4588	0.44	0.46	0.4549
Finnish mark	0.5476	0.5553	0.54	0.56	0.5501
Canadian dollar	2.1692	2.1997	2.13	2.23	2.1848
Australian dollar	2.1447	2.1749	2.09	2.21	2.1580
S. African rand	0.8326	0.8443	0.70	0.87	0.8379
Belgian franc (10)	0.8624	0.8746	0.85	0.89	0.8676
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5224	2.5580	2.47	2.59	2.5399
Italian lira (1000)	1.8589	1.8851	1.81	1.92	1.8694
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.13	4.38	4.2399
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.86	0.91	0.9021
ECU	3.4330	3.4813	—	—	3.4489
Irish punt	4.3282	4.3892	4.23	4.49	4.3808
Spanish peseta (100)	2.1815	2.2122	2.12	2.26	2.1935

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Key Representative Rates

		Change
US dollar	NIS 3.0070	+ 0.40%
Sterling	NIS 4.4783	+ 0.07%
Mark	NIS 1.7863	+ 0.27%

INT'L STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	3699.54	-6.24
DJ Transport	1624.81	+14.56
DJ Utils	198.66	-1.51
DJ Comp	1309.54	+1.27
NYSE Indust	307.26	+0.36
NYSE Transport	251.89	+0.86
NYSE Comp	250.41	-0.06
NASDAQ Indust	-	-
NASDAQ Transp	-	-
NASDAQ Utils	153.66	-0.29
NASDAQ Comp	-	-
S&P 100	419.68	-0.93
S&P Spot Index	451.87	-0.84
AMEX Comp	438.2	-2.23

NYSE stocks

	Unchanged	Advances	Declines
Share movements	+613	1246	321
Volume up (in 1000's)			145331
Volume down (in 1000's)			114586

Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3125.3	-19.2
Tokyo Nikkei average	19628.9	-80.2
Singapore all-share index	576.41	+0.35
Hong Kong Hang Seng index	9328.64	+192.53

Israeli stocks in NY

	Last	Change
NYSE / AMEX		
Am Is Pap	44.5	+0.125
Ampal A	8.75	-0.125
Aryt	3.75	+0
Biotech	3.1875	-0.125
Carmel Cont	8.625	-0.25
Electro Chem-Frutarom	2.875	0
Elscint	3	+0.125
Etz Lavud	9.5	+0
Etz Lavud A	8.375	+0.75
Laser Inds C	7.5	-0.25
PEC	28.125	-0.375
Tadiran	20.5	+0.5
NASDAQ / over-the-counter		
Aladdin	6.625	-0.5
4D	6.375	-1.375
Ampal 6.5	25	0
BVR Tech	8.5	-0.25
Converse Tech.	8.625	-0.375
Def Sys	8.25	+0
ECI Tel	20.625	+0.875
Edunetics	5.5	-0.875
Edu-Soft	10.5	-0.25
Electric Fuel	9.875	+0.375
EFI	16	-0.125
Elbit	35.75	-0.5
Elron	15	0
Eshed Robotec	2.3125	-0.125
M. Systems	6.75	+0
ISG	4.875	+0.25
Geotek	11.0625	-0.3125
Health Tech	2.1875	-0.0625
Idan	1.0625	-0.0625
IIS	8.25	+0
Interpharm	13	-1.5
Isramco	1.90625	+0
Istec	1.125	-0.0625
Koor Bond	100	-0.25
Lannet	8.625	-0.125
Lanoptics	7.375	-0.375
Magal	5	-0.5
Mercury-A	6.125	0
Magic	13.25	-0.25
Orbotech	9.125	-0.5
Oshap Tech	3.25	-0.5625
Rada	5.75	-0.125
Robomatics	2.5	-0
Sapiens	10.75	-0
Scitex	19.875	+0.125
Sulcom	5.125	-0.375
T.A.T. Technol	4.5	-0.25
Taro Vit	5.5	-0.25
Towesta	14.125	-0.375
[illegible]	5.375	+0
Teva	35.875	+0
TTS	2.5	-0

(All listings are closing quotes)

Source: CommStock Trading Ltd. (Date 26-APR-94)

INT'L MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

		Last	Change
Pound	spot	1.5063	-0.0151
	Jun future (CME)	1.5034	-0.0154
D-mark	spot	1.676	-0.0058
	Jun future (CME)	0.5953	-0.0017
S-franc	spot	1.4308	-0.0042
	Jun future (CME)	0.6987	-0.0014
Yen	spot	102.83	-0.37
	Jun future (CME)	0.009751	+3.2e-005
CanDlr.	spot	1.373	-0.0037
	Jun future (CME)	0.7267	+0.0013
AusDlr	spot	0.7182	+0.0004
	Jun future (CME)	0.7175	+0.0008
F-franc	spot	5.757	-0.0145
It Lira	spot	1613.5	+5.5
Nlg	spot	1.8838	-0.0052
AutShlg.	spot	11.83	+0.025
Rand.	spot	3.585	-0.03
ECU	spot	1.1527	+0.0043
Bonds	future	105.21	+0.05
S and P	future	451.75	-0.4

Libor rates

		Last	Change
Dollar	3 months	4.25	0
Dollar	6 months	4.625	0
Dollar	12 months	5.25	0
Sterling	3 months	5.25	0
Sterling	6 months	5.5	+0.0625
Sterling	12 months	5.875	0
S-franc	3 months	4	-0.0625
S-franc	6 months	4	-0.0625
S-franc	12 months	4.0625	0
D-mark	3 months	5.4375	0
D-mark	6 months	5.375	0
D-mark	12 months	5.375	0
Yen	3 months	2.3125	0
Yen	6 months	2.5	0
Yen	12 months	2.6875	0

(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

Source: CommStock Trading Ltd. (Date 26-APR-94)

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds
34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem,
Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758826
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INT'L COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (CEC)	1094	-7
Coffee (May.) (CEC)	84.25	+0
Wheat (May.) (CBOT)	320.5	+2
Soybeans(May.)(CBOT)	669.5	+0.5
Orange juice (May (CEC)	100.2	+0.8
Crude oil light (Jul)(CEC)	16.69	-0.32

London commodities

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May.) (LCE)	845	-6
Coffee (May.) (LCE)	1535	-12
Wheat (May(LCE)	114	+0.25
Brent crude oil (Jun(IPE)	1654	-29

Spot market metals (US)

		Last	Change
Gold:	spot	374.25	+0.5
Silver:	spot	5.19	+0.05

New York metal futures

	Last	Change
Gold (Apr.)	373.8	+3385.6
Silver (May.)	5.175	+0.045
Platinum (Jul.)	397.4	+2.4
Palladium (Jun.)	136.95	+1.4
High-grade copper (May.)	0.8885	-0.003

London metal fixes

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	374.15	+3.9
Gold PM fix	374.3	+1.3
Silver fix	512.1	+2.7
Platinum PM fix	394.6	+4.6

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date*

(Spot market listings are from aproximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

Source: CommStock Trading Ltd. (Date 26-APR-94)

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Commercial Banks

Name	Price	%chg
FrstntW1	2055	
FrstnW2	7128	
General	12440	
IndDevDD		
IndDvPrD		
LeumiW1		
MercC	247	-0.4
OHH	242026	0.8
Trade	565	1.0
TradeC	237	

Mortgage Banks & Finance

Name	Price	%chg
Adanim	415658	3.0
Carmel	847	-5.2
CarmC3	380	-8.9
DevMB	24088	1.5
FinaMB	42515	0.7
IndepMB	101238	2.0
J lemC	139.00	
J lemW	287	
JlemBnk	490	
LeumiMBR	122587	1.0
Mishkan	38886	
MishkanC	191.50	0.8
Mazav	17482	
TefahotB	179715	
TefahotR	185217	

Financial Institutions

Name	Price	%chg
Shiton	9825	-1.0

Insurance

Name	Price	%chg
Ararat	2496	0.8
Ayalon	1194	3.5
AyalonC	603	1.7
Esan	349	-3.1
EsanC1	207	
Hadar1	1587	0.5
Hadar5	1486	
HamishmrC	302	
Hamishmr1	2361	
Hamishmr5	2186	
Menorah1	1481	
Menorah5	1402	-2.2
Phoenix1	4943	
Phoenix5	4758	-0.3
Sahar	762	
Zion5	14476	-2.0

Trade & Services

Name	Price	%chg
Assuta	1534	
AssutaC1	307	-0.3
Baran	3378	
BezekW2	314	-3.1
BndWhC1	132.50	
BndWhC2	133.00	-1.1
BondWh1 L	5504	
Cilag0.1	139828	4.0
ClalCmpC	410	-3.7
ClalTrW5	1096	1.5
CorBeach	2637	-3.5
CoOp	1250	-0.2
Crystal	5212	-0.5
DanHotl1	3068	
DCL	1271	2.3
DCLW	744	
Elad	289	
Feldman	571	-5.0
GanHader	335	
GanHadC	203	-0.5
GdagG2	227	0.4
GrandC1	125.00	0.4
GrandW2	175.00	-2.0
HGBC1	148.50	3.1
HGBW1	520	
HGB1	1146	1.0
Intgama1	5343	-1.0
Intgama5	5588	-1.0
Isral	3163	-3.2
Lraz	2295	
Mafil	1445	4.3
Medtech	1115	-2.3
MedtechW	1744	-2.0
MLLC1	273	0.7
Rapac	3315	2.0
Reshef	316	-0.6
ReshefC1	132.50	
Team	6567	
TeamC1	319	
TeamC2		
Telsys	1737	-0.5
Topline	704	-1.9
YaadC1	153.50	
Yaaena	1487	
Yeda1	1393	1.2
Yona	1175	-1.0

Industrials

Name	Price	%chg
AcronC	162.50	-2.1
AcronoC	488	
AdacomC2	147.50	-2.0
Alliance	2215	
Alony	543	-0.2
AlonyW1	80.30	-3.6
AlumiW1L	18963	7.3
Angel	14666	-2.0
Argaman	19755	
AryC1	136.50	
Ashdoy	3116	-1.0
AshdvC1	186.00	3.6
AshdyW2	364	-7.0
AshtroW1		
Ashtrom	535	-3.3
Azorim	1786	-1.0
AzorimW1	615	
Azmach	1072	
Belmon	810	
BoulosC1	242	-5.1
Cables C2	339	-8.6
CablesC3	128.50	
CablesW3	743	-1.1
Caraline	1333	
Cargal	1597	-0.2
Castro	1579	1.0
Chem	576	0.5
ChemW1	142.00	0.4
CldStrC	386	
CldStr0.1	3281	-0.2
Clnd C8	202	
CycloneW	12616	9.8
Cyclone1	25617	
Cyclone5	16035	
CyclonC1	199.00	5.0
CyclonC2	216	9.9
Dafronci	178.50	
DafronW2	2504	
Dafron1	4315	
Decision	1209	
Degem1	1841	-1.0
Delta 1	2341	
Delta3	2139	-1.0
DubekB	19147	-2.0
DubekR	18996	-2.2
EagleC	160.00	
EagleC2	45.00	
EagleW3	38.90	
Eagle1	92.00	
Edgar	587	-2.0
EdgarC2	140.00	
ElronTec	186.00	-0.3
ElbitW1	24850	
Elcoind	5181	
Elcomca	2149	
ElcmW1	585	
Elcr 0.5	9771	-3.0
ElectrG4	363	
ElscC	267	-1.1
EshdRbtc	1292	
Evrgt	877	-4.0
Fertlzr5	3891	
Fertl0.1	3812	3.0
FeuchtW1	4965	-6.0
FeuchtW5	3946	-3.0
Five J	1013	5.0
FrutarC1	189.00	0.3
FrutarC2	168.50	0.9
GiborC1	118.00	
GiborSeb	643	
GiborW2	1210	
Golan	1631	
Hamaal1	20869	10.0
Hamaal5	20887	10.0
Hashot1	632	0.3
Hashot5	486	
Hod	536	
Hofit	399	
IsrCan1	3759	-3.0
Jaf-ora	848	
Kedem	7082	-1.5
KedemC2	193.00	-1.5
Kater	522	
KitanC1	146.00	-0.3
KitanW1		
KR5	2562	-1.0
Lipski	5039	-1.5
Lodzia1	2420	
Lodzia4	1799	0.2
LuhotGal	531	-4.0
MacPell	1065	3.3
MacPelW1	33.00	9.6
Magam	636	
Maxima1	2488	-3.0
Maxima5	2212	-1.0
Mal Eden	1169	
Modgal	956	-2.0
Mozaica1	1118	1.5
Mozaica5	1031	
NegCeram	634	-2.9
Nahusht1	1470	-1.3
Nahusht5	1377	
Navot	1556	-2.0
NeviotW1		
Nice1	2239	
NMC	576	2.5
Ofis	1310	
Ophir	368	-3.9
Orbit1	776	1.4
Orica	458	
PackerW2	16882	3.0
Pargod	3317	
PazChem	948	-1.0
Pika	983	-3.0
PolgatA	559	-0.5
PolgatC1	171.50	-6.0
PolgatW3	276	-0.4
Polygon	1397	
PolygonC	179.50	
PCB	1214	1.0
Rabintex	1863	2.5
RabintxW	981	2.5
Sanitol1	1166	
Sano1	1857	-0.3
Sano5	1690	-0.2
Sefen	1026	-4.0
Shemen	24727	0.3
Spectrnx	743	-3.9
Steel	200	
Sunfrost	13527	1.3
Taal	118820	1.0
Tadiran	1420	1.3
TadirC	304	
Tadea	1136	-0.8
Tiv	1122	
Tobaos1	641	0.3
Topper	511	
TATC1	354	
TAT1	1396	-3.0
Unibar1	1501	
Unibar5	620	-4.2
Vitalgo1	906	-1.9
Vulcan	330	-0.9
VulcanC	168.50	
Wertmon	33104	
WertmnW3	[illegible]	
YtongC2	427	-0.9
Zahavi	612	3.2
Zion1	1297	
Zion5	1911	3.5
Zika1	5753	
Zika5	5096	
ZionCab.1	1921	-0.5
Zoharnec	1220	0.2

Property, Building & Agriculture

Name	Price	%chg
Afrov	2964	
AfrovC		
AfrovW1L	1677	
Arazim	891	
Arazim C1	179.50	
Adadan1	1577	
Asas	3297	
AsasC4	231	
AesidW2	1993	-1.7
AzorprC1	287	
AzorprW3	208	
AzorProp	780	1.0
Barano1	2268	-2.0
Bayside5	35446	
BaysidC1	35769	-1.0
BenYaKar	6041	
BenYaKW1	2228	
BenYharC	107.50	
BldgRes	7538	
Contrctr	3765	0.2
DanKner	2364	
DanKnerC	186.50	1.4
Deradi	479	-1.2
Dunbar	7867	-5.0
DunbarCw	849	-0.6
Engel	1038	1.3
GoldHous	334	0.3
GldHousC	184.00	0.8
Hlen	790	3.3
HilenW4	827	4.5
Ispro	3549	
Israiom	2521	0.2
IsraiomC	257	
IsraiomW	2871	
IsrasC1	226	-2.2
Isras0.5	8930	
Isras1	3539	-0.5
ICP5	27178	-4.2
Jaysour1	601	-8.0
Jordan	635	3.8
LachC1	145.00	
LaznickW1	217	-3.6
Laznick	738	-3.3
Lifshz5	336	0.3
Lumir1	10271	0.7
MalibuC		
MalibuC2	121.00	0.9
Malibu1	1753	0.2
MarLazC	229	-2.1
MarLazC2	131.00	1.2
MarLazW3	928	-0.6
Minrav	14361	-4.0
Mishnael	432	
MTM	4465	
NeotAviv	2099	-0.2
PnOr	7348	-3.3
RedSea	922	
Rogovin1L	1612	-0.6
Rogovin5	1677	
Rotem	1035	4.8
SaharHlal		
Secom	484	1.7
Shaked	1176	
Tashlaz	1456	-1.0

Investment Companies

Name	Price	%chg
Acians1	1838	-2.0
Acians2	1680	-1.0
AfrarC	679	
Ampa	230240	-1.0
Arad	12346	-2.2
Az aC2	347	0.9
ClalW3	4714	3.2
Clal50	9423	-0.5
DanbarC	257	-0.8
Danbar1	5238	-7.0
Elem	5491	-2.0
Emeh	674	-6.0
ExportC4	373	
EzraC1	892	3.5
Hiron5	9780	-0.8
IDLC5	222	
Kardan1	915	
KardanG2		
Kital	1400	-0.5
Magor1	4287	4.3
Magor5	3700	6.5
Molad	1260	0.5
OcifC1	145.50	1.0
OcifW1	7492	-0.5
Ofer	28581	-1.0
Pama0.1	1851	-9.5
Rim1	982	
Rim4	788	
SaharDev	4225	
Securits	4657	3.0
SecurtsC	139.50	0.7
SecurtsW	2073	
TayaC	436	-0.2
TaarC1	183.50	
TaarSHmr	143.50	2.9
TaarW3	131.00	1.6
Unico	7870	-1.5

Oil Exploration

Name	Price	%chg
JoelC1	215	
JoelC1A	217	-1.4
MGN1	21833	0.2

PARALLEL LIST

Trade & Services

Name	Price	%chg
Atlan	3551	-2.0
AtlanW1	2688	
Comtec	909	-0.8
Dalin1	3210	-4.9
Danel	1812	0.3
Danly	6147	-10.0
Data	3123	-2.5
Eltech	1081	
Greenbrg	1501	-2.5
ILOCHOT	967	-1.2
Kind	370	
Kopel	881	-1.0
KopelC1	183.00	
M2PK	978	-1.0
Nrun1	838	-2.4
TrendLin	2570	

Property, Building

Name	Price	%chg
Adler	280	
Caesrea1	13232	-3.0
Gazit	1023	-2.0
GazitW1	793	-1.2
GazitC1	378	
Lazmach	405	2.0
Lwnstn1	1241	-3.0
Maleron	1310	
Oz	325	-2.4
Rasseco	4611	1.0
Scandia	12971	
ScandiaC	149.50	3.1
UnicomG1	147.00	
Unicom1	294	-1.1
Unicom5	286	4.8
UnicoW3	139	-6.3

Industrials

Name	Price	%chg
Adumim1	595	-3.3
Bar—Ton1	3564	-8.7
Baruch1	2054	-3.3
Baruch5	1096	-9.5
Brosh1	898	
Dexter	6447	
Elam	453	10.0
Gal	177.50	0.8
Haman	3079	4.0
Kadmany1	864	
King1	1325	-0.2
Lahish1	6954	
ManC1	156.00	
Man1	883	
MLT	1991	-0.3
Neca	33701	1.5
NecaG1	202	0.5
Ohollab	1135	-5.0
Orazt	529	2.9
OradC	131.00	
OrdaPmt	1260	-10.0
Polak1	1986	1.7
Shladot	598	
Taste	1838	
TbrwG1		

Investment Companies

Name	Price	%chg
Binyan	267439	-0.2
Mirage	243	
MivtakG1		
Optima	778	-0.3
Regent1	487	-3.5
Yissum	175.50	-1.1

Oil Exploration

Name	Price	%chg
DIKOEx1	6398	-1.8
Naphtha	38.00	-5.2

Two-sided trading

	AFTERNOON			MORNING		
Name	Price	% Change	Volume Shares	Price	% Change	Volume Shares
Abjac	116.0	-3.2	1100000	119.0	-0.8	427372
Ackerlin	922	-1.0	20800	917	-1.5	23047
Adacom	1017	-8.7	138700	1026	-8.0	47981
Afris 0.	508840	1.0	306	503604		50
Afrisr	469892	1.0	175	466403	0.2	134
Agan	4557	0.5	8500	4579	1.0	4265
Agis	3617	1.0	6300	3617	1.0	17842
Aryt	1155	0.2	4300	1152		15440
Avner	25.8		702000	25.8		1580946
Azorim	5200		5000	5252	1.0	2778
ALPM	13618	1.0	540	13552	1.3	3069
Bezek	661	-2.0	190800	671	-0.4	179764
Boulo	398	-3.0	6120	398	-2.9	65796
Cables	2070	-1.0	58500	2091		19155
Clal Com	46246	-2.5	150	46483	-2.0	193
Clal Ele	38558	2.7	5250	38558	2.8	4045
Clal Tra	1849	0.7	27000	1853	1.0	19973
Clal 10	10278	0.5	4500	10278	0.5	5325
Clalins	1875	1.5	58050	1852	0.3	5623
Cldstr 5	3095			3095		6898
Clinds	2015	1.5	52900	2000	0.8	48557
CohenDev	1307	-8.2	18000	1324	-5.0	9750
Danbar 5	3522	-1.5	1600	3531	-1.3	4983
Dead Sea	1325	0.7	168000	1341	2.0	50345
Delek	7613	1.5	18200	7500		13834
Discinv	23464	-0.7	3780	23641		3773
Elbit	35478	0.5	5530	35478	0.5	2950
Elco	8642	-1.0	250	8642	-1.0	2628
Elite 5	1490		1700	1490		35404
Elron	15523		7350	15523		4473
Evergr n	5142	-1.2	6300	5103	-2.0	4277
Export	2313	-1.0	5000	2318	-0.8	4349
Fibi	60125	0.5	3280	59826		2170
Formula	3809	-1.7	13200	3858	-0.5	17255
Frstint1	39292	1.0	1860	39487	1.5	2184
Frstint5	36533	1.2	1260	37074	2.7	1152
Frutarom	875		33000	875		25950
Gahelet	13648	-1.2		13848	-1.3	1438
Granit	574	-1.7		574	-1.7	4877
Hapoalm	418	-1.0	302820	416	-1.4	260425
Hapolm	14127	0.5	4860	14057		3928
IndBldg	477	0.2	24500	478	0.4	54347
IndDevBK	50071	-1.2	660	50705		1221
Isramco	27.7	-0.2	17100000	27.8		6169815
IsrCorp1	39796	0.5	840	40192	1.5	410
IsrCorp5	35692	0.2	1120	35959	1.0	597
IsChem	248	-1.0	805800	255	1.6	421205
IDB	1265	-1.5	54000	1274	-0.8	67464
IDBDev	69197	-0.7	570	69646	-0.2	404
ILDC	2372	-0.7	5600	2372	-0.8	32651
JEC	1895		2800	1895		17968
JOEL	427	-1.5	112100	423	-2.5	98442
Kardan5	858	-2.2	93000	878		
Kitan	1149	0.7	27950	1140		20863
Klill	2921			2921		4090
Koor	22079	0.2	10800	22244	1.0	4611
Leumi	356	0.5	462000	354		416743
LeumiW2	42.0	-8.2	710000	42.0	-6.3	747032
Lifshiz1	403	-3.5	46400	398	-4.8	66545
Makhtesh	1599	0.5	38000	1591		31563
Malibu5	1799	1.2	28500	1777		5669
Maman	829	1.2	15000	825	0.7	10798
Marit1	3234	-0.5	1600	3234	-0.5	18781
Mashov	1068	0.2	46200	1060	-0.5	20864
Mehadrin	18178		300	18178		1201
MeirEzra	8746	0.7	8000	8681		8847
Mivtah	2500	-2.0	18000	2525	-1.0	13714
Multilock	2188	0.7	51250	2183	0.5	39331
MGN5	19163	2.7	10620	18650		6013
MLL1	959	-2.2	5400	961	-2.0	18260
NatoilDS	88.5	0.2	156000	88.0	-0.8	154876
NACIONAL	2407	0.5	7000	2395		6222
Ocif	12079		1000	12079		6670
Ormat	1212	1.0	225000	1200		87603
Osem	1975	-1.7	7200	1975	-1.7	8047
OsemW1	626	-6.7	16000	631	-6.0	33869
PazoilEx	346	-2.0	46800	346	-2.0	92164
Packer	21937		840	21937		2769
Periclas	2723	0.7	32000	2703		10485
Petrcham	722	-1.0	38500	724	-0.7	61217
Piryon	25799		1080	25798		724
PoalimW2	63.0	-6.7	532000	63.5	-5.9	1298277
PolgatB	592	-0.7		592	-0.7	27348
Poseidon	294	-0.2	58800	295		64781
Rogosin	4849	-1.0	3000	4837	-1.2	7345
SelaPump	238	2.0	624000	234	0.4	138414
SupersIB	5857	-	1305	5857		10494
Tamboue	921	-1.2	27000	933		16320
Tempo1	2333	1.0	19650	2310		21003
Teva	77162	0.2	2650	77740	1.0	816
TevaC	430		4700	430		40132
Tibnveal	1260	-0.5	20100	1260	-0.5	24257
TAT5	922	0.5	75400	917		71413
Urdan 0.	449	-1.7	5000	449	-1.8	29435
Yaad	1759	1.2	26100	1746	0.5	4817
Ytong	1038	0.5	13500	1033		20320

SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

THE PEOPLE YOU CAN TALK TO. ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Name	Price	chg
NEW YORK		
AMP Inc	61.875	+1
ANR Corp	60	+1.125
ASA	41.5	+0.5
Abbott Labs	28.125	-0.125
Acme Cleveland	12.5	+1.625
Advanced Micro	27	+1.25
Aetna Life	53.5	+0.625
Affiliated Publ	10.5	+0
Aflac	29.375	-0.125
Ahmanson (HF)	18.5	-0.125
Air Prods	43.5	+0.25
Alberto-Culv B	21.5	-0.125
Albertson's	28.75	-0.25
Alcan Aluminum	21.125	-0.375
Alco Standard	50.625	+0.125
Alex & Alex	14.5	-0.25
Allegheny Power	23.5	+0
Allied Signal	34.875	-0.625
Alcoa	68.75	+0.125
Amax	23.375	+1.25
Amdahl Corp	7	+0.125
Amerada Hess	51.375	+0.375
Amer Brands	34.5	+2.75
Amer Cyanamid	47.5	-0.5
Amer El Power	32.25	-0.25
Amer Express	28.875	-0.125
Amer Genl Corp	25.25	-0.875
Amer Greeting	29.6875	-0.1875
Amer Home Pr	58.75	-0.5
Amer Int'l	88.875	+0.25
Amer Natl Ins	60	+0
Amer Stores	24.875	-0.625
Amer T & T	52.25	-0.125
Ameritech	41.5	-0.25
Ametek Inc	13.5	+0.125
Amoco	56.75	-0.25
Analog Devices	27.625	+0.25
Anheuser-Busch	54.125	-0.5
Aon Corp	46.125	-0.375
Apple Computer	31.25	+0.25
Archer Daniels	22.875	-0.25
Arkla	6.5	-0.125
Armco	4.625	-0.125
Armstrong World	54.375	+1.625
Asarco	23.375	+0.375
Ashland Oil	39.875	-1.375
Atlantic Rchfld	97.75	-1.5
Auto Data Pro	51.5	+0.375
Autodesk	53.875	-1.5
Avery Dennison	28.75	+1.125
Avnet Inc	37.125	+0.25
Avon Products	58.125	-0.375
Balmco Corp	3.625	+0.125
Baker Hughes	19.625	-0.25
Ball Corp	26.625	+0.25
Bally	6.75	+0.125
Baltimore Gas	23.875	-0.375
Banc One Corp	32.625	-1
Bandag	61.5	+1.625
BankAmerica	43	-0.5
Bank of Boston	25.375	+0.75
Bank of New Yk	54.75	+0.125
Bankers Trst NY	67.5	-0.5
Barnett Banks	45.125	-1.125
Battle Mount Gd	9.75	+0
Bausch & Lomb	45.375	+0.375
Baxter Intl	23.375	+0
Becton Dickinson	37	-0.25
Bell Atlantic	53.125	-0.5
Bell Industries	17.25	+0.375
BellSouth	61.625	-0.625
HA Belo Corp	47.5	+0.125
Beneficial Corp	37.25	+0.25
Bethlehem Steel	20.875	+0.25
Beverly Entprs	13.625	+0.25
Black & Decker	18.75	+0
Boeing	44.875	+0.125
Boise Cascade	21.75	-0.625
Borden Inc	13.25	+0.375
Bowater Inc	20.75	-0.25
Briggs & Strtn	82	+0.5
Bristl Myrs Sqb	53	-0.375
Brit Airwys ADR	61.875	+0.875
BP ADR	70	+0.25
Brit Steel ADR	22.25	+0.25
Brit Telecom	58.375	+0.625
Brooklyn Union	23.875	-0.125
Brown Group	37.75	+0.125
Brown & Sharpe	6.625	+0.125
Browning Ferris	28.875	+0.125
Brunswick	21.5	+0.375
Burlington Nthn	55.875	-0.125
CBI Inds	30.125	-0.25
CBS Inc	298.125	+9.25
CMS Energy Corp	22.125	-0.125
CPC Intern	48.375	-0.25
CSX Corporation	78.375	-0.375
Cabot Corp	53.25	+1.25
Campbell Soup	40	+0.125
Capital Cts ABC	712.125	+14.875
Capital Holdings	29.875	-0.75
Carolina Pwr Lt	28.375	-0.25
Carpenter Tech	57.75	+0.125
Carter Hawley	11.125	+0
Caterpillar	110.625	-0.5
Centerior Energy	11.125	-0.25
Centex Corp	28.25	+0
Central & SW	26.125	+0.125
Ceridian	23.875	+0
Champion Intl	29.875	-0.125
Chmg Shoppers	10.9375	-0.5625
Chase Manhattan	33.375	-0.125
Chemical Bkg	35.5	+0.25
Chevron Corp	90.875	-1.75
Chiquita Brands	14.125	-0.125
Chrysler	49.5	-0.25
Chubb Corp	77.5	-0.375
Citicorp	37.375	-0.125
Clark Equipment	68	+1.375
Clevnd Cliffs	37.125	+0.125
Clorox	60	-0.375
Coastal Corp	32.375	+1.375
Coca Cola	40.5	-0.125
Coca Cola Ent	17.5	+0
Colgate Palmolv	58.25	+0.25
Comcast Corp A	16.375	+0.625
Commonw Edison	25.375	-0.5
Compaq	111.625	+1
Compute Ass Int	30.125	-0.375
Computer Sci	38	-0.125
Conagra	28.375	-0.625
Cons Edison	30.75	-0.375
Cons Freightwys	25.25	+0.625
Cons Nat Gas	38.25	+0.125
Cons Rail	56.625	+0.625
Conti Bank Corp	34.625	+0
Contl Corp	22.375	+0.375
Cooper Inds	37.5	+0.5
Coors (Adolph)	18.75	-0.375
Corning Inc	31.25	+0.5
Crane	25.5	+0.25
Cray Research	21.375	-4.25
Crown Cork Seal	36.625	-0.125
Cummins Engine	41.875	-0.875
Curtiss-Wright	34.75	-0.25
Cypress Semicon	18.5	-0.125
Cyprus Mineral	27.375	+1
DSC Commun	57.25	-0.875
DQE	31.875	-0.5
Dana Corp	53.625	+0
Data General	7.25	+0.25
Dayton Hudson	74.875	-0.25
De Beers	23.375	+1.25
Deere	78.875	-2.125
Delm Pwr & L	20.75	+0.125
Delta Air Lnes	43.375	+0.75
Deluxe Corp	27	-0.25
Detroit Edison	26.625	-0.125
Dial Corp Del	45.875	-0.125
Diebold Inc	40.375	-0.25
Digital Equip	20.125	+0.875
Dillard Dep St	39.875	-0.75
Disney (Walt)	43.5	+1.125
Dominion Res	42	-0.25
Donelley (RR)	28.375	+0.5
Dover Corp	58.25	-0.625
Dow Chemicals	63.125	+1.375
Dow Jones	38.625	+0
Dresser	22.375	+0
Dreyfus Corp	48.25	-0.375
Duke Power	38.375	-0.375
Dun & Bradst	59.375	+0.75
Du Pont	57.875	-0.25
E G & G Corp	15.375	+0
E-Systems	39.875	-0.25
Eastern Ents	26.5	+0
Eastman Kodak	41.75	+0.125
Eaton Corp	54.25	-0.375
Echlin Inc	26.125	-0.125
Emerson Elec	57.5	+0.375
Engelhard Corp	25.75	+0
Enron Corp	30.125	+0.25
Enserch Corp	13.875	+0
Entergy Corp	31.25	+0
Ethyl Corp	11.875	+0.25
Exxon	62.875	-0.75
FMC Corp	47.125	+0.875
FPL Group	35.125	-0.125
Fedders Corp	7.625	-0.125
Federal Expres	73.875	+0.25
Federal Mogul	28	-0.875
Fed Nat Mtge	83.25	+0
Federal Ppr Bd	30.625	-0.5
Fieldcrest Can	31.375	+0.125
First Bank Sys	34.75	+0.125
First Chicago	52.125	-0.5
Fst Fid Bcorp	45.75	-0.75
First Interst	77.125	+1.125
Fst Mississipp	15.375	+0.375
Fst Union Rlty	7.125	-0.125
Fleet Finl Grp	38.75	-0.125
Fleetwd Enterp	19.875	+0
Fleming Cos Ok	24.5	+0
Florida Prog	30	-0.125
Fluor Corp	50.75	+0
Food Lion Inc	5.875	+0
Ford Motor	57.875	+0.5
Foster Wheeler	39.625	-0.125
Freeport McMor	19	+0.625
GATX Corp	40.5	-0.25
Geico Corp	54.5	+0.75
GTE Corp	32.5	-0.125
Gannett	52.875	-0.25
Gap Inc Del	47.5	-0.125
Gencorp	13.75	+0.125
Gen Am Invest	21	-0.125
Gen Dynamics	40.375	+0
Gen Electric	96	-0.75
Gen Mills	52.25	-0.25
Gen Motors	58.75	-0.5
Gen Motors E	34.375	-0.125
Gen Public Util	30.5	+0
Gen Reinsurnce	112.25	-1.75
Gen Signal	32.5	-0.25
Genuine Parts	35.375	-0.5
Georgia Pac	59.375	-0.25
Gerber Prodcts	31.125	+0.125
Gillette	66.875	+0.25
Glaxo ADR	16.75	+0.125
Golden W Finl	38.5	-0.5
Goodrich (BF)	45.75	+0.5
Goodyear Tire	40.125	+0.125
Grace (W&R)	41.375	+0.375
Grainger (WW)	61.5	+0.5
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23.875	+0.375
Grt Western Finl	16.5	-0.125
Grow Group	16.125	+0.25
Halliburton	30	-0.625
Hanna (MA)	38.625	+0.75
Harcourt	32.25	+0.875
Harnischfeger	21.5	+0.125
Harris Corp	43.75	+0.125
Harsco Corp	43.25	+0.5
Hartmax	6.5	+0.125
Hasbro	34.125	-0.125
Hecla Mining	11.625	-0.125
Heinz (HJ)	33.25	-0.125
Hmrch & Payne	27.125	+0.25
Hercules	108.125	+1.375
Hershey Foods	46	+1.375
Hewlett Packard	79.125	-0.875
Hilton Hotels	56.625	+2.125
Home Depot	41.875	+0.125
Homestake	18.625	+0.375
Honeywell	31.625	+0.5
Hormel (Geo)	19.375	+0.125
Household Intl	31.625	-0.125
Houston Inds	36.125	-0.625
Humana	19.125	+0
ITT Corp	89	+0.375
Illinois Power	22.375	+0.25
Illinois Tool	40	+0.125
Imcera Group	-	-
INCO	24	+0.625
Ingersoll Rand	35.5	+0.125
Inland Steel	34.375	+0.375
Intel Corp	63.25	+0.375
Intergraph	9.8125	-0.0625
Interlake	2.875	+0
IBM	58.5	-0.75
Intl Fmly EntB	16.125	+0.125
Intl Flav & Fr	36.875	+0
Intl Multifoods	16	+0
Intl Paper	63.875	+1.25
Interpublic	29.5	+0.5
James River Bs	17.875	-0.25
Jefferson Plt	48.75	-0.375
Johnson & J	40.25	+0.125
K Mart	16.25	-0.75
Kellogg	50.375	-1
Kennametal	52.75	+0.625
Kerr-McGee	46.125	-0.125
KeyCorp	31.375	-0.5
Kimberly-Clark	55	+1.125
King World Prod	35.125	-0.625
Knight Ridder	59.5	+0.375
Kroger	22.75	-0.125
LSI Logic	22.5	+0.25
Legget & Platt	41	+1.375
Leucadia Natl	37.75	-0.125
Lilly (Eli)	49.875	-0.625
Limited Inc	18.875	+0.375
LIN Broadcastng	104.5	-0.875
Lincoln Nat	37.125	-0.5
Litton	30.25	+0
Liz Claiborne	25.75	+0
Lockheed Corp	61	-0.875
Loews Corp	91.75	+0.125
Lone Star	-	-
Long Island Lt	22.5	+0.375
Longs Drug Strs	31.75	-0.625
Loral Corp	37.5	+0
Lotus Dev Corp	69.875	+0.5
Louisiana Land	40.875	+0.25
Louisiana Pacif	31.875	-0.25
Lowe's Co Inc	35.375	+0.875
Lubrizol	36.25	+0.25
MA Comm Inc	5.75	-0.125
MCI Commun	22.9375	-0.0625
Manor Care	27.75	+0.25
Manville Corp	8.125	+0
Mapco Inc	63.75	+1
Marion Merrell	16.875	-0.125
Marriott	29.625	-0.25
Mrsh & McLn	84.375	-0.125
Martin Marietta	164.5	0
Masco Corp	29.25	+0.875
Massmutual Corp	32.125	-0.75
Mattel Inc	24.625	+0.125
Maxus Energy	4.875	+0.375
May Dept St	41	-0.25
Maytag Corp	19.25	+0.625
McDermott	21.375	+0
McDonalds	59.625	+0
McDonnell Dglas	112.75	-0.5
McGraw Hill	65.75	-0.5
McKesson Corp	67	+0.125
Mead Corp	41.125	+0.5
Medtronic	76.5	-0.375
Mellon Bk	56.125	-0.625
Melville Corp	39.625	+0.375
Mentor Graphics	13	-1.3125
Mercantile Strs	38	-0.625
Merck Inc	30.25	-0.625
Meredith Corp	43.5	+0.75
Merrill Lynch	38.375	-0.25
Microsoft Corp	94.9375	+1.1875
Millipore	48.875	+0.375
Mine Safety App	40.625	+0
Minnesota Mine	48.75	+1
Mitchell Energy	20	+0
Mobil Corp	79.5	-0.5
Molex Inc	32.75	+0.25
Monarch Macht	10.375	+0
Monsanto	81	+1.125
Morgan (JP)	62	+0
Morrison-Knudsn	25.125	-0.875
Morton Intl	87.875	+2.375
Motorola Inc	48.875	-0.625
Multimedia Inc	27.625	-0.125
Murphy Oil	46	+0.625
Nacco Inds	46.125	+2
Nalco Chemical	33.75	-0.125
Nashua Corp	26.125	+0
Natl City Corp	26.625	-0.25
Natl Intergrp	16.625	+0.375
Natl Medcl Ent	16.625	+0.375
Natl Semi	20	+0
Natl Serv Ind	26.875	+0.125
NatWest Bank	38.875	+0.25
Navistar Int	19.875	-0.125
NBD Bancorp	28.375	+0.125
Network Systems	7.5625	+0.4375
Neutrogena Corp	16.75	-0.25
New England El	37.375	+0.125
NY State El Gas	27.125	+0
NY Times A	25	-0.625
Newmont Mining	40.5	+0.125
Niag Mohawk	18.625	-0.125
Nicor Inc	27.25	-0.375
Nike Inc	54	-0.5
NL Industries	6.5	+0.25
Noble Affil	29.125	-0.25
Nordstrom	41	+0.75
Norfolk Southrn	63.125	+0.625
Northeast Util	24.625	+0.25
Nthn State Pwr	41.875	-1.125
Northrop	37.125	+0
Norwest Corp	25.75	+0
Nynex Corp	36.75	+0
Occidental Pet	17.625	+0.375
Ogden Corp	15.375	+0
Ohio Casualty	30.5	-0.75
Ohio Edison	18.625	+0
Olin Corp	51.875	+2.625
Omnicom Group	47.375	-0.125
Oneok Inc	17.25	-0.125
Oracle Systems	30.125	-0.75
Oryx Energy Co	17	+0.125
Oshkosh B'gosh	14.125	+0.125
Outboard Marine	21.625	+0
Overseas Ship	21.125	+0.25
Owens Corning	34.875	+0.625
PHH Group	34.5	-0.125
PNC Financial	28.375	-0.625
PPG Industries	78.625	+1.625
PSI Hldgs	22.375	-0.5
Paccar Inc	53	+0.75
Pacificorp	18	+0
Pac Enterprises	22.375	-0.125
Pac Gas & Elect	26.75	-0.375
Pac Telesis	32.375	+0.25
Pall Corp	17	+0.125
Panh Eastern	20.375	-0.25
Paramount	37.625	-0.125
Parker Drilling	5.75	-0.125
Parker Hannifin	42.625	+1.25
Penn Central	-	-
Penney(JC)	53.5	-0.25
Pennsyl Pwr Lt	24.75	+0
Pennzoil	49.5	+0.5
People's Energy	30.125	-0.375
Pepsico	36.625	-0.125
Perkin Elmer	29.5	+0.25
Petrie Stores	25.5	-0.375
Pfizer	59	-0.75
Phelps Dodge	54.875	+1.25
Philadel Elec	28	-0.125
Philip Morris	54.25	+2
Phillips Pet	32.125	-0.625
Pioneer Hi Bred	35.5	+0.5
Pitney Bowes	41.5	+0.375
Policy Mgt Sys	27.25	-0.125
Potash Corp	25	+0
Potomac El Pwr	22.875	-0.125
Procter & Gamble	56.625	-0.375
Pub Svc Enterpr	28.625	+0.25
Pug Snd Pwr	20.75	+0.25
Quaker Oats	65.25	+0.375
Quanex Corp	20	+0.375
RJR Nabisco	7	+0.5
Ralston Purina	37.625	-0.125
Rank Organsn ADR	13.125	+0.125
Raychem Corp	34.75	+0.25
Raytheon	63.875	-0.5
Reebok Intl	31.25	+0.375
Reynolds Reyn A	22	+0.125
Reynolds Metals	49.875	-0.125
Rite Aid Corp	19.125	+0.25
Roadway Services	57.75	+0
Rockwell Intl	39	+1
Rohm & Haas	57.375	+0.125
Rohr Industries	8.625	+0.375
Rouse	19.125	-0.625
Rowan	7.25	+0
Royal Dutch	108.75	+0.75
Rubbermaid	28.375	-0.875
Ruddick	18.625	-0.125
Russell Corp	39.25	+0.25

Source: CommStock Trading Ltd.

Market up slightly on lowest turnover in weeks

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO

Two-Sided Index	Maof Index	Karam Index
215.24	209.61	263.16
-0.13%	N/C	-0.41%

THE Two-Sided Index yesterday declined 0.13 percent and the Karam 0.41%, while the Maof closed with no change on one of the lowest turnover in recent weeks.

Total turnover was a mere NIS 183 million, due primarily to a lack of interest in the Two-Sided market.

Turnover there was NIS 111m., one-third less than in recent weeks and 40% of what it was during the stock market's heyday.

Describing the movements on the Two-Sided Market has concentrated lately on two major issues – the Meir Ezra Group and oil exploration companies.

Meir Ezra rose 5% on a turnover of NIS 3.2m., T-Bone Veal was up 3.5% on a turnover of NIS 984,000 and Poseidon rose 3.9% on a turnover of NIS 670,000.

These three companies accounted for an aggregate turnover double that of Bezek, twice that of Teva and higher than that of Koor or Israel Chemicals.

Isramco declined 4.1% on a turnover of NIS 9.8m., the highest on the market for the day.

Similarly, Joel declined 2.3% and Naphta fell 5.8%. On the positive side, Avner rose 6.2%.

Then comes the rest of the market. There was little to tell yesterday, except the declines in Bank Leumi and Bank Hapoalim, by 1.7% and 0.9% respectively.

There were several securities which were not traded at all – Granit, Teva Warrant, Mehadrin and Klil, while Tambour and Mishor Hahof registered only one trade and Aryit and Petrochemicals only two.

Investors are just not interested in the Two-Sided Market, particularly in the absence of the heavyweights (the institutionals).

The stock market did not react to the news of the investigation of Bank Hapoalim employees.

In fact, the news of the investigation had been circulating for weeks, ever since the arrests at Ilanot Discount. The loudest rumors had it that the investigation would center on the provident funds of one of the major commercial banks.

Those rumors pointing to Bank Hapoalim were somewhat less emphatic. Still, nobody was really surprised, and this might explain why the reaction was limited to a slight decline on the trading floor on Monday.

We are far from the sharp falls after the Russian mafia was arrested or even when Ilanot Discount was the center of attention.

FTSE rally cut short, but index rises 19.2 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuter) – Shares closed firm but below the day's highs with the market underpinned by a strong performance from gilts and FTSE index futures but disappointed with the lack of a clear lead from Wall Street.

The FTSE 100-index ended up 19.2 points to 3,125.3.

FRANKFURT - German share prices closed sharply higher, boosted by surging bund and DAX futures prices, positive company and macroeconomic outlooks, and relief over the slowdown in M3 growth.

Prices seen holding gains in post-bourse but market looking to US GDP data tomorrow. The DAX-30 index ended at 2,243.20, up 1.86 percent, or 40.98 points.

PARIS - French shares ended the session higher after yesterday's fall. The gains were fragile and trading was quiet throughout the session.

The CAC-40 index ends up 14.62, or 0.69 percent, to 2,130.91.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended firmer, but off earlier highs as a lack of follow-through buying in index-heavyweights Nestle and Roche pulled the market down. The broad SPI eased 10.44 points to 1,802.96.

TOKYO - Buy orders from public insurance and pension funds, domestic financial institutions and foreigners managed to bring Tokyo stocks up to end off earlier lows.

The Socialists' sudden pull-out from Japan's ruling coalition was largely factored in by midday. The Nikkei average closed down 80.21 points or 0.41 percent to 19,628.93.

HONG KONG - Stocks closed sharply higher, triggered by Wall Street's overnight rally and fading concerns over government plans to cool local property prices.

The blue chip Hang Seng Index ended up 192.53 points, or 2.11%, at 9,328.64.

SYDNEY – The Australian share market ended at its highest level in more than a week, led by a stronger Wall Street and gains on the local bond market. The All Ordinaries index ended up 26.9 points to 2,069.4.

JOHANNESBURG - Shares posted strong gains in active trade yesterday as they celebrated the start of all-race elections and found strong support from a variety of other factors.

Local speculators and institutions were seen leading the charge, with some foreign interest noticed during a busy day. The overall index closed up 172 points to 5,240, industrial index up 226 at 6,257 and gold index up 60 to 1,906.

Blue-chip stocks drop on profit-taking from Monday's surge

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuter) - Blue-chip stocks closed slightly lower yesterday as investors took profits from Monday's surge of more than 57 points in the Dow index and prepared for the market's closing to observe the national day of mourning for former President Richard Nixon.

The Dow Jones industrial average was off 6.24 points to end at 3,699.54, based on early and unofficial data.

But in the broader market, advancing issues led declines 12-9 on moderate trading of 286 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

	MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFr	FFr
MARK	—	0.3960/64	61.26/29	0.8530/33	3.4363/58
STERLING	2.5237/47	—	154.64/76	2.1522/51	8.6873/89
YEN	1.6312/30	0.6460/69	—	1.3912/31	5.6027/69
SFr	1.1716/27	0.4640/47	71.81/86	—	4.0245/90
FFr	0.2910/12	0.1152/54	17.81/88	0.2462/65	—

Prices from 23:00 local time

Mercedes crashes to huge '93 loss

STUTTGART, Germany (Reuter) – German car and truck maker Mercedes-Benz AG said yesterday it had suffered a big loss in 1993 but hoped to accelerate back into profit this year.

Mercedes told a news conference lost DM 1.198 billion in 1993 on income from ordinary business activities, compared with a 1992 profit of DM 849m.

"The result reflects the difficult first half of the year in the car business, as well as the continuous crumbling of prices in the European commercial vehicle business," management board chairman Helmut Werner told a news conference.

Although making profit on the cars it sold, Mercedes' earnings were punctured by restructuring costs of DM 1.7b. and high startup costs for its new lower-priced, C-Class model.

As the world's biggest luxury car-maker, Mercedes is the main profit center of Daimler which also recently reported a big 1993 loss. Mercedes accounts for two-thirds of Daimler sales.

The company said it had made an extraordinary gain of DM 1.4b. due to the adjustment of its accounts to US GAAP accounting procedures.

Daimler-Benz adopted the new accounting rules last October after becoming the first German company to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Mercedes group sales were down 3% in 1993 to DM 64.69b. Passenger car production fell to 508,000 units from 520,000 a year earlier, while commercial vehicle output fell to 254,000 from 275,000.

Werner said he expected earnings to improve this year. "I can say with a high degree of certainty that the [earnings] trend in both divisions will point upward this year. I am very confident that the passenger car division will generate a positive result again, but I have to add this is not due solely to increases in unit sales but also to further reductions in costs."

He backed up his optimism with figures for the first quarter this year which showed company sales had leapt 28% to DM 16.1b.

Car registrations in the crucial home market, which accounts for about 40% of group unit sales, jumped 41% to around 67,300 units. Werner repeated a prediction that Mercedes would sell over 570,000 cars this year after 520,000 in 1993.

Industry analysts shared Werner's optimism.

"The positive swing factors are enormous. They will have a big turnaround from cost savings alone," said Michael Geiger, senior analyst at Natwest Securities in London.

Analysts say the key to the group's performance this year will be the earnings of its new, lower-priced C-Class model, the replacement introduced in the middle of last year for the old 190 series.

Mercedes broke a long silence on the profitability of the C-Class by saying it would clearly exceed the breakeven level in 1994.

Juergen Hubbert, chief of Mercedes' car division, told Reuters Mercedes would make more than 300,000 C-Class models this year and that its breakeven level was around 210,000 to 230,000 annual unit sales.

Mercedes admitted that its commercial vehicle division would face a harder time returning to profit. The market is still suffering from weak sales and heavy price competition.

BAT to buy American Tobacco for $1b.

LONDON – BAT Industries Plc, which owns cigarette brands like Kool, Kent, and Barclay, said yesterday it is buying American Tobacco from American Brands Inc. for $1 billion in cash.

The deal will further strengthen the position of BAT in the increasingly competitive North American market, where it will now obtain Lucky Strike and Pall Mall.

BAT, formerly British American Tobacco, already owns Brown & Williamson, the third biggest tobacco company in the US behind Philip Morris Cos. Inc. and RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp.

BAT had already acquired Lucky Strike and Pall Mall outside the US in a June 1993 brand swap with American Brands in exchange for most of the Benson & Hedges business in Europe.

The deal is still subject to clearance by US government anti-trust authorities, which is expected to take several months to complete.

"This acquisition makes immediate financial sense, enabling us to achieve a stronger position by combining the best of each company's operations in the US," BAT chief executive Martin Broughton said in a statement. "It will provide considerable benefits for consumers through the creation of a more effective third force in the market.

"The acquisition, moreover, confirms our commitment to tobacco and complements our long-term growth opportunities elsewhere in the world."

BAT is also acquiring the rights to Silk Cut outside Europe and is entering into a long-term manufacturing arrangement with American Brands' British subsidiary, Gallaher.

Banco Santander wins Banesto auction

MADRID (Reuter) – Banco Santander SA yesterday took center stage as Spain's largest bank after winning an auction for Banco Espanol de Credito-Banesto SA with a bid that surprised analysts and punished Santander's share price.

Santander shares dropped 7.8 percent at the opening in Madrid to 5,670 pesetas but chairman Emilio Botin was satisfied he had paid the right price for the bank.

"We are very happy with the price, it takes into account Banesto's brand name and its extensive branch network. This was a unique opportunity for us," he told a news conference.

The new banking group will have assets of $110 billion, nearly 4,000 offices and 37,000 employees, making it the biggest in Spain and one of Europe's largest.

Santander bid 762 pesetas ($5.44) a share for Banesto, taking 73.45% of the bank whose board was ousted by the Bank of Spain last December after running up huge loan losses.

Of this, 13.25% must be offered to existing shareholders at a nominal 400 pesetas ($2.86) per share, leaving it with 60.2%. Botin said Santander will keep a minimum of 40%.

The auction result came as a huge shock to state-controlled Argentaria SA, which offered 566 pesetas ($4.04).

"We were flabbergasted. Our advisers (Goldman Sachs) told us not to go above 570," an Argentaria spokesman told Reuters.

Even Bank of Spain governor Luis Angel Rojo, who announced the result on Monday night, said he was surprised at the bids.

"I was not expecting such a wide price range, and the prices bid were very high," he said in parliament.

Santander's price was above Banesto's closing price on Monday of 755 pesetas, and well above the 400-450 pesetas expected by some analysts.

Banco Santander Chairman Emilio Botin (left), shows the way to acting Banesto Chairman Alfredo Sanz before yesterday's press conference in Madrid. (AP)

"Some valuations had exaggerated the extent of Banesto's problems but we were still surprised," said Jaime Smith, analyst of brokers Benito y Monjardin who had valued the shares at 690 pesetas.

The spokesman for Argentaria, 50.01% owned by the state, said his group was nevertheless satisfied to have taken part since it had successfully resisted pressure not to bid.

"There was pressure from all sides for us not to make a bid, but we have demonstrated our independence," he said.

Santander's Botin said he believed this was the last major restructuring of Spain's banking sector, leaving it with four large banking groups of which he singled out Banco Bilbao Vizcaya SA as the main competitor.

BBV, which at the outset had been the favorite to take over Banesto, bid 667 pesetas ($4.76) per share.

Analysts said they were reserving opinions on Santander until its plans for Banesto become clearer.

"It's hard to predict the long-term impact, especially for Santander shareholders, but it's obvious they'll have to restructure Banesto," said FG Inversiones's Jose Sevilla.

Botin said Santander had no plans to cut back offices or reduce staffing levels drastically for now, and that Banesto's industrial holdings would be sold off in an orderly fashion.

Banesto's stake in media organizations, however, would be sold immediately.

Priority goals will be reducing operating costs at Banesto significantly by next year, and thereafter restricting their growth to below inflation. Some of its international investments will be kept, including those in Chile, Argentina and Uruguay.

Botin said Santander had been waiting a long time for this opportunity, accumulating capital and profits, though it had always denied it was interested in a domestic acquisition.

"In the last six months alone we have raised 450 billion pesetas ($3.2 billion) in capital on the markets," he said.

The news did not impress the international ratings agencies, three of which put Santander on special review.

"It's normal to be put on a credit watch when something like this happens. I think there are arguments in favor of maintaining the ratings," Botin told the news conference.

He said he was confident that, after 18 months of inspections by the Bank of Spain and further audits this year, there would be no further financial deficits lurking in Banesto.

"Contingencies can always crop up but we are confident that the inspections and the audits have been thorough," he said.

US wages, salaries, benefits up 3.2%

WASHINGTON (AP) — US wages, salaries and benefits rose 3.2% in the year ended March 31, the smallest increase on record, the government said yesterday.

The Labor Department said its employment cost index, considered one of the best gauges of wage inflation pressures, was down from the 3.5 advance a year earlier. It was the smallest advance since the government began compiling the index in 1982.

Benefits, including health care costs, rose just 4.1%, the smallest advance in seven years.

The pace of employment compensation, which was increasing at a 5.5% rate in early 1990, slowed as the economy slipped into the recession later that year.

Although the recovery now is three-years-old, job creation until recently remained tepid and companies continue to lay off workers and shrink their workforces in an attempt to remain competitive. In that environment, employees have had little leverage to boost their compensation.

As a result, employment cost gains have remained near 3.5%. And since employment costs typically represent about two-thirds of the cost of a product, that has tended to keep price hikes in check.

The consumer price index rose just 2.7% last year and, so far in 1994, is advancing at a 2.5% percent annual rate. It had risen 6.1% as recently as 1990.

Wages and salaries — about 72% of total compensation — rose 2.9%, slightly more than the 2.7% advance a year earlier.

But benefit costs, including health care, were up 4.1%, following a 5.4% gain a year ago. It was the smallest increase since a 3.7% gain in the year ended December 31, 1987.

Health care cost increases have been slowing since the Clinton adminstration began its campaign to overhaul the system.

The annual figures are not adjusted for seasonal variations.

During the first quarter, employment costs rose a seasonally adjusted 0.7%, down from 0.8% during the October-December period.

Wages and salaries also were up 0.7%, compared to 0.7% in the final three months of 1993. Benefit costs rose 0.9%, slower than the 1% increase in the fourth quarter.

Analysts prefer to track the latest 12-month performance because it smooths out the volatility of the quarterly reports and provides a more accurate picture of inflationary trends.

German M3 surge slows, stock market boosted

FRANKFURT (Reuter) – German money supply surged for the third consecutive month in March, but the pace of growth slowed from the two previous months, the Bundesbank said yesterday in a report that gave a boost to the stock market.

The central bank said M3 money supply, one of its key guideposts for monetary policy, jumped at an annualized rate of 15.2% last month, compared with 17.5% in February and 21.2% in January. The indicator remains well above the Bundesbank's 1994 target corridor of 4%-6%.

But many economists believe the moderation in M3 growth should enable the Bundesbank to continue with its policy of small cuts in the repo rate, a key money-market interest rate.

However, some economists say the figure's lofty level is becoming an increasing concern.

Skittish German financial markets had worried that the figure could be yet higher, and rose in relief.

In an initial reaction, the DAX index of leading German shares jumped 10 points to near 2,225 and continued rising to close at 2,243.2, a rise of 40.98. The benchmark government bond also gained ground.

M3 represents cash and deposits which are readily available to consumers and the Bundesbank traditionally worries that any sharp rise could signal dangerous inflationary trends.

The Bundesbank linked the strong M3 rise to the fact that monetary capital formation had reached a virtual standstill. These longer term investments lie outside the scope of M3.

"Money supply growth remained strong... This was partly a result of the fact that monetary capital formation came to a virtual standstill because of increasing uncertainty on the capital markets," the Bundesbank said.

But economists reckon on a continued slow, steady easing in the securities repurchase rates, which fell to 5.58% last week. The Bundesbank has allowed this rate to slide since early March from 6%.

"What's important is that 15% is a decline and that M3 is approaching the target corridor," said Gerhard Grebe, economist at Bank Julius Baer. "The Bundesbank therefore has more scope to lower rates. Inflation is coming down and the special factors in M3 will slowly be phased out."

The "repo rate," the key German money-market rate, is a rate charged on loans to banks that are collateralized by government securities. Estimates for this week range from a fall of five to 10 basis points, economists said.

Most do not expect a cut in the 5% discount and the 6.50% Lombard rate before the end of May.

The Bundesbank on Tuesday set two variable rate repos tenders, a one-day tender to smooth out money-market conditions, coupled with a regular 13-day tender. Tender results are due on today.

The Bundesbank has said that M3 has been distorted by statistical and special factors this year, but some economists say that the monthly figures begin to raise troublesome structural issues as well.

"They cannot use this argument [of special factors] any more," said Holger Fahrinkrug, economist at UBS.

Economists pointed in particular to a dramatic increase in bank lending to the government, private households and companies, all of which took advantage of historically low German interest rates.

S. African markets celebrate start of elections

JOHANNESBURG (Reuter) – South Africa's financial markets celebrated the first day of the country's first all-race elections yesterday with strong gains across the board.

Dealers shrugged off a spate of bomb attacks, which have killed 21 people, and focused instead on hopes of a political settlement after the polls, which span three days to tomorrow.

A series of explosions across the country since Sunday have been blamed on white extremists opposed to majority rule.

Market sentiment, which soared and sank in the uncertain climate ahead of the elections, firmed on Tuesday. Dealers said they were now looking forward to the end of over three centuries of white minority rule.

"The election is here at last – it's a reality," said a bond trader, who described the mood on the gilts floor as euphoric.

"The momentum of the political change is irreversible," said another, adding that markets were expecting a "good result" from the elections – meaning a stable government of national unity.

Polling booths close at 1700 GMT tomorrow. Vote counting begins on Friday and full provisional results are expected by Sunday morning, according to electoral officials.

The financial rand – a currency tool to encourage foreign investment and limit capital outflows jumped 26 cents on the dollar yesterday to hit an intra-day peak of 4.62, before closing at 4.70 from Monday's 4.88 end.

Dealers said trade was active, as speculators loaded up on the financial rand ahead of today's public holiday and an expected inflow of foreign interest after the elections.

One dealer said the market seemed to have heaved a "huge sigh of relief" that the poll date had "eventually arrived", and had not been held hostage by radical rejectionist groups.

South African markets were jolted by the killing of 53 people in and around Johannesburg on March 28 during a march by Inkatha Freedom Party Zulu royalists. But they have taken in their stride the bombings which killed a total of 21 people and injured 162 on Sunday and Monday.

"The markets are really optimistic that things will work out," one dealer said.

The commercial rand currency hurdled off Monday's closing levels as buying fervour returned to the volatile market. The rand gained almost three cents on the dollar to close at 3.5858 from a previous 3.6148 close.

"People expect the next few days to be reasonably peaceful, so they're buying the local currencies in light of that," a senior foreign exchange trader said.

Shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange posted strong gains as the first votes were cast. The overall index climbed 172 points in the day to finish at 5,240.

Dealers said solid demand from local institutions had lifted equity prices, but big volume foreign investors were unlikely to come in until after the polls.

"But the election is going ahead and some people are taking positions on that," one trader said. He said sentiment had been buoyed by market resilience to the bombings.

Speculators and foreigners dived into bonds, sending yields on key long stock tumbling over 20 basis points off their overnight levels. Benchmark government R150 stock finished at 12.605 percent from 12.83% on Monday.

"How far this market can go nobody knows," said one senior bond trader. "(But) we expect a honeymoon period after the elections with rates falling further."

WORLD BRIEFS

Disney reports higher profits: Walt Disney Co. said yesterday its second-quarter revenues and profits showed strong gains, but overall income growth was limited by lower attendance at its theme parks.

The entertainment giant said earnings for the quarter rose to $248.4 million, or 45 cents a share, a 16 percent increase over the year-ago period, when it earned $214.8m., or 39 cents a share. Revenues rose 12% to $2.27 billion from $2.03b.

Wall Street reacted favorably to the news. Disney's stock rose $1.125 to $43.50 in morning trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Disney chairman Michael Eisner topped the world's executive pay scale last year with earnings of $203m. in salary and stock options, not much less than Disney's quarterly profits. *Reuter*

Schneider warrant arrest out: A warrant has been issued, for the arrest of fugitive German property tycoon Juergen Schneider, a German court said on yesterday.

Schneider, who owed banks more than $2.98b. and left around $149m. of unpaid bills, disappeared three weeks ago.

Swiss justice officials have blocked at least $70m. in bank accounts suspected of belonging to Juergen Schneider, the absconded German property tycoon, Geneva public prosecutor Bernard Bertossa said on yesterday.

He said officials had blocked accounts at various Geneva banks as a provisional measure pending further inquiries into suspected money laundering. *Reuter*

US consumer confidence up: Consumer confidence in the US economy jumped in April to the highest level in nearly four years, buoyed by rising optimism about business conditions and job opportunities, a widely followed survey showed today.

The Conference Board, a New York research group, said its index of consumer confidence based on the survey results jumped 5 points in April to 91.7, up 24 points from the same time a year ago. The index, calculated from a base of 100, is now at the highest level since a 101.7 reading in July 1990.

"Latest consumer confidence readings continue to be optimistic, running at levels which have historically signaled a strong economy," said Fabian Linden, director of the Conference Board's consumer research unit. *AP*

UK manufacturing output on the rise: British manufacturing output is rising at the fastest rate for five years, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said on yesterday.

But the CBI, in a report eagerly awaited by financial markets, also showed business confidence has wobbled in recent months, with fewer firms expecting the business outlook to improve.

The report backed up news on Monday that Britain's gross domestic product grew by 0.6% in the first quarter of the year for an annual rise of 2.6%, a fraction ahead of the government's forecast of 2.5% growth this year.

The CBI said British inflationary pressures remain subdued and there was no sign of cost and price pressures emerging, easing fears in the British bond market that inflation could be set to take off in coming months. *Reuter*

Hoechst profits up 16%: Germany's largest chemicals group, Hoechst AG, said yesterday that profits rose 16% in the first quarter and full-year profit would rise for the first time in the current decade.

Group pre-tax profit rose to $301.4m. in the first three months of the year from $259.7m. in the same period last year. This exceeded analyst forecasts of DM475m. to DM495m.

At the parent company, pre-tax profit rose to $141.2m. from $130.4m.

Group sales rose to $7.17b. from $6.49b., with foreign sales climbing 13.6% but domestic sales up just 0.6%. *Reuter*

Tarmac recovery program pays off: Tarmac Plc, Britain's largest housebuilder, said yesterday its heavy cost-cutting program of the last two years had finally paid off with a sharp cut in its 1993 pretax losses.

Chief executive Neville Simms – who took the decision to scale back after the fast growth years in the 1980s – said Tarmac was now ready to benefit from an upturn in its markets.

Pretax losses for 1993 narrowed to £43.1m. The year before, heavy restructuring charges took the group to losses of £350.3m. – a record for the British construction industry.

The 1993 figures would have shown a profit of £55.7m. but for a one-off goodwill write-back of some £88.5m. on the original acquisition of its former water-proofing unit Ruberoid. *Reuter*

Britain's Sears back in the black: British stores group Sears Plc, best known for its flagship Selfridges department store, yesterday said it moved back into a year profit although it expected conditions to stay tough even as recession ended.

The group made a pre-tax profit for the year to end-January of £138.3m. compared with a loss in the previous year of £47.8m.

Sears said it was determined to remain competitive in the retail race and would continue to change the format of its stores and develop the chain. *Reuter*

DuPont shows high earnings: DuPont Co. reported yesterday first quarter earnings of $642m., outstripping analysts' expectations with its best performance since 1990 and showing its corporate recovery is gathering steam.

DuPont shares surged on the results, gaining $3.50 to close at $58.125 on the New York Stock Exchange where it was among the most active issues.

Other chemical stocks traded higher in its wake amid signs the industry was growing after a long slump.

DuPont's first quarter net income was $642m. or 94 cents a share, about 20 cents more per share than analysts had forecast.

A year earlier, DuPont earned $493m., or 73 cents a share, including a one-time gain of $32m. from the sale of North Sea oil properties. With that gain excluded, the rise in first quarter 1994 net income was 39%, DuPont said. *Reuter*

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Joshua J. Goodman/Douglas Greene

GETTING HIS KICKS – Washington Capitals goalie Byron Dafoe kicks away Pittsburgh Penguins Rick Tocchet's shot. (Reuter)

Graf wins despite death threat

HAMBURG (Reuter) – Germany's world No. 1 Steffi Graf shrugged off a death threat with a relaxed and faultless performance in her opening match at the Hamburg Open tennis tournament yesterday.

Graf, returning to the court where Monica Seles was stabbed in the back a year ago, took just 35 minutes to dipose of compatriot Silke Frankl in a 6-0, 6-0 victory.

Graf's death threat came in a handwritten letter sent to a Hamburg newspaper last Friday. The letter, which was published on Monday, was signed "friends of Seles and opponents of Graf".

German police do not believe the threat is serious. But after the attack on Seles, all players are being given two bodyguards and undercover police are operating at the tournament which runs until Sunday.

Last year, lathe operator Guenter Parche smuggled a kitchen knife into the Hamburg claycourt complex in a plastic bag and stabbed Seles, who was then world No. 1, while she was sitting on a chair during a changeover.

2-Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain) beat Elena Wagner (Bulgaria) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(7-4); 4-Anke Huber (Germany) beat Eugenia Maniokova (Russia) 6-1, 6-2: Leila Meskhi (Georgia) beat Patricia Tarabini (Argentina) 7-5, 6-2;

WATCHING HER BACK – Top seed Steffi Graf is watched by a bodyguard during a break in her match at Hamburg yesterday. (AP)

Roy's 60 saves leads Montreal

BOSTON (Reuter) – Kirk Muller scored with less than three minutes left in overtime and Patrick Roy made 60 saves to lead the Montreal Canadiens to a 2-1 win over the Bruins on Monday and a 3-2 lead in their best-of-seven playoff series.

Muller knocked in a rebound by lifting a backhand over Jon Casey with 2:42 left in overtime to give victory to Montreal, who received an star performance from Roy, whose playoff fate had been in doubt due to an attack of appendicitis.

The defending champion Canadiens tied the game with 5:11 left in the third. John LeClair netted his first goal of the series when he went for a wraparound and while taking the shot had the puck bounce off a Boston defenceman and past Casey.

The series shifts to Montreal for Game Six tonight.

Devils 5, Sabres 3

Claude Lemieux had two goals, including a dazzling game-winner, and two assists as host New Jersey rallied from a three-goal deficit to take a 3-2 lead in their best-of-seven series.

Lemieux scored the game-winner at 4:30 of the third period to give the Devils a 4-3 lead. He skated in along the right side and put the puck through the legs of Sabres defenceman Richard Smehlik. Lemieux regained control of the puck and then slid it past Buffalo goaltender Dominik Hasek.

Penguins 3, Capitals 2

Jaromir Jagr scored his first goal of the playoffs at 9:21 of the third period to help host Pittsburgh stave off elimination.

The Capitals, who will host Game Six of the series tonight, hold a 3-2 lead in their best-of-seven series.

NHL Playoff Glance
Quarterfinals (Best-of-7)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Monday's results:
Montreal 2, Boston 1 (OT)
(Montreal leads 3-2)
New Jersey 5, Buffalo 3
(New Jersey leads 3-2)
Pittsburgh 3, Washington 2
(Washington leads 3-2)
Rangers win 4-0
Boston-Montreal (tied 2-2)
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Dallas wins 4-0
Calgary leads Vancouver, 3-1
Detroit-San Jose (tied 2-2)
Chicago-Toronto tied 2-2

Boston Garden, Celtics moribund

BOSTON (AP) – The parquet floor has splinters. Many seats are empty despite the announced sellout crowds. In less than two years, Boston Garden will be a pile of rubble.

The old building isn't the same. Neither are the Boston Celtics.

The Celtics were 18-23 at home (32-50 for the season). That's one more than they had over five seasons. They were 183-22 from 1983-84 through 1987-88 when visitors had to overcome enthusiastic fans, the Celtics "mystique" and one of the best teams in the league.

In that span, they reached the NBA Finals four times, winning twice, and lost in the Eastern Conference finals once. This season, they missed the playoffs for the first time in 15 years.

Robert Parish, the only survivor of those title teams, may have played his last game in the Garden. He'll be 41 in August and says he'll decide this summer whether to play a 19th NBA season.

"It didn't mean anything to me," Parish said of the Garden. "It's just another place to play. When you have that kind of talent at the level we were at, it didn't matter where we played."

But now the only signs of Larry Bird and Kevin McHale are their retired numbers hanging from the dingy rafters.

Although the club says the sellout streak has reached 619 games, beginning on December 23, 1980 against Denver, that claim is based on tickets sold. At least one-quarter of the seats were empty when last Tuesday night's game started. And, with no playoff berth at stake, crowds have been quiet.

An arena is going up just behind the Garden, which will be used for one more season before being torn down. The Celtics are scheduled to move into their new home for the 1995-96 season.

"It's very important we end the season as professionals," Parish said. The Celtics, however, dropped their season finale to Cleveland 117-91.

NBA playoffs tomorrow

The first round of the NBA playoffs starts tomorrow night. The best-of-five conference quarter-finals has Miami traveling to Atlanta and Orlando hosting Indiana in the East, while Utah is at San Antonio and Denver visits Seattle in the West.

Wales wins bowls Test series

SAM SKUDOWITZ

THE Wales lawn bowls team ended their Test series here with a 2½-1½ victory against Israel on Monday. Israel won the first Test 2-1, then the Welshmen came back strongly to take the next two by identical scores of 2-1.

The fourth Test was peeled, when Israel won the Singles, Wales took the Pairs, and the Fours ended in a peeled game. In the Singles, Jeff Rabkin beat Mark Chard 25-9. The Welsh pair of Robert Weale and Nigel Williams overwhelmed Cecil Bransky and Lawrence Mendelsohn 44-14, including a maximum eight count.

In the Fours, the host quartet of Chaim Miller, Alec Goldsmith, Yair Gavish and Colin Silverstein took a single on the last head to peel the game 20-20. The Welsh foursome of David Wilkens, Robert Price, Phil Rowlands and Wyn Mathews were the only team to go through the series unbeaten.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Holyfield to retire from ring

Evander Holyfield announced his retirement from boxing yesterday, due to a heart condition just days after losing the heavyweight championship to Michael Moorer.

"He has a pre-existing heart problem. It's something he had before he began his boxing career," said Holyfield's manager, Shelly Finkel. Routine cardiograms taken immediately after last Friday's fight in Las Vegas showed "unroutine" results.

Double no-hitter in Japanese minors

Both pitchers hurled no-hitters yesterday in a Japanese minor league game. The farm team of the Yakult Swallows beat its Seibu Lions counterpart 1-0 on a dropped fly ball good for two bases, followed by two sacrifice bunts, in the fifth inning.

Pair of Padres busted on morals charge

San Diego Padres pitcher Scott Sanders, scheduled to start last night's game against the host New York Mets, was arrested early yesterday along with outfielder Derek Bell for trying to pick up a prostitute, police said.

Bell and Sanders, both 25, were in a taxicab when they approached an undercover police officer from the Public Morals Squad at about 2 am at 30th Street and Lexington Avenue.

Johnson outguns Clemens in mound duel

SEATTLE (Reuter) – Randy Johnson outgunned Roger Clemens in a duel between two of baseball's best power pitchers on Monday as the Mariners took a 4-2 victory to snap the Boston Red Sox's six-game winning streak.

Ken Griffey Jr homered and went 3-for-3 against Clemens, who had not lost in the Kingdome in nearly nine years.

Johnson (2-1) pitched his second complete game of the season as he limited the Red Sox to five hits and struck out nine while walking just one. The tall lefthander leads the American League with 31 punch-outs.

Clemens (2-1) allowed three runs on six hits and struck out six in his seven innings of work.

Clemens allowed a pair of unearned runs in the third inning before surrendering Griffey's sixth home run of the season in the fifth.

Andre Dawson homered in the fourth and Scott Fletcher homered in the sixth to bring the Red Sox within 3-2.

The Mariners added an insurance run in the eighth on an RBI double by Tino Martinez.

Orioles 8, A's 6

Cal Ripken's two-run double highlighted a four-run, sixth-inning rally as Baltimore won at Camden Yards.

Trailing 6-3 in the sixth, Baltimore scored two runs on a pair of bases-loaded walks by loser John Briscoe (2-1) and took the lead when Ripken doubled down the left-field line off Billy Taylor for two more runs.

The Athletics suffered their seventh straight loss.

Mike Mussina (4-1) survived a shaky first two innings to post the win. After giving up six runs on seven hits over two innings, Mussina retired 18 straight batters. He didn't allow a hit until Terry Steinbach's one-out single in the eighth.

"They were sitting on my breaking ball and my fastball wasn't as good as it usually is," Mussina said. "I had to make some adjustments.

Lee Smith pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

The Athletics jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first on Geronimo Berroa's two-run single. Oakland extended its lead to 6-3 in a four-run second inning highlighted by two-run homer by Stan Javier, who extended his hitting streak to 17 games.

Yankees 11, Angels 1

Matt Nokes hit his sixth career grand slam and drove in five runs and Jimmy Key pitched seven shut out innings.

The Yankees, winners of six straight games, improved to 6-1 on their eight-game homestand,

Nokes' slam off loser Mark Leiter (2-1) in the third inning gave the Yankees a 6-0 lead. Paul O'Neill went 5-for-5 for New York to raise his Major League-high average to .490.

Twins 9, Indians 7

Jeff Reboulet's two-run double ignited a five-run seventh inning outburst that carried visiting Minnesota.

The Indians, who dropped their fourth straight home game, are 8-3 on the road and 2-4 at home.

Mike Trombley (2-0) earned the victory in relief of Minnesota starter Jim Deshaies. Rick Aguilera notched his fifth save.

Cleveland starter Dennis Martinez (0-3) took the loss and is winless in his five outings as an Indian. He was tagged for eight runs – six earned – on 10 hits in six-plus innings.

Brewers 13, White Sox 4

Alex Diaz, starting in place of the injured Darryl Hamilton, went 4-for-6 to lead an 18-hit attack as streaking Milwaukee won on the road.

Diaz scored three runs and drove in two and Kevin Seitzer also went 4-for-6 with three RBI for the Brewers, winners of five in a row.

Ted Higuera (1-1) allowed just one run on four hits in six innings. Cy Young winner Jack McDowell (1-3) took the loss, surrendering six runs on 11 hits in 4⅔ innings. McDowell had gone 5-0 during April in each of the last two seasons.

Royals 4, Blue Jays 3

David Cone pitched eight strong innings and Bob Hamelin drove in two runs to give Kansas City a home victory. Cone (3-1) allowed three runs and six hits in eight innings.

Paul Molitor gave Cone the most trouble, hitting a pair of homers, the first an inside-the-park homer that hit the base of the wall and caromed away from centerfielder Brian McRae.

Jeff Montgomery worked the ninth for his first save.

Loser Dave Stewart (2-1) went the distance for the first time this season, allowing eight hits with 10 strikeouts.

The game between the Detroit Tigers and Texas Rangers was postponed due to rain.

Due to technical difficulties, the National League Roundup was unavailable.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	13	6	.684	–
New York	12	6	.667	½
Toronto	12	7	.632	1
Baltimore	11	7	.611	1½
Detroit	6	12	.333	6½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Milwaukee	11	7	.611	–
Cleveland	10	7	.588	½
Chicago	11	8	.579	½
Kansas City	8	9	.471	2½
Minnesota	7	13	.350	5

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
California	8	12	.400	–
Seattle	7	11	.389	–
Oakland	7	12	.368	½
Texas	5	11	.313	1

MONDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Minnesota 9, Cleveland 7
New York 11, California 1
Baltimore 8, Oakland 6
Milwaukee 13, Chicago 4
Kansas City 4, Toronto 3
Detroit at Texas ppd

MONDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Cincinnati 4, Chicago 3 (10)
Florida 4, Atlanta 3
Houston 7, Pittsburgh 3
Colorado 7, St Louis 6

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	14	6	.700	–
New York	9	9	.500	4
Montreal	9	10	.474	4½
Florida	9	10	.474	4½
Philadelphia	8	11	.421	5½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	12	5	.706	–
St. Louis	11	7	.611	1½
Houston	10	8	.556	2½
Pittsburgh	8	9	.471	4
Chicago	5	12	.294	7

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	11	8	.579	–
Colorado	9	9	.471	1½
Los Angeles	8	11	.421	3
San Diego	6	14	.300	5½

Mac TA's double hopes still alive

DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

THE State Cup quarter-finals produced a myriad of soccer thrills yesterday, as eight clubs battled for a berth in the semifinals.

Maccabi Tel Aviv kept its dreams of a Cup and League double intact as it dispensed of neighbors Bnei Yehuda in a keenly-fought 2-0 away victory in the city's Hatikva Quarter before a crowd of 7,000.

The derby struggle in Petah Tikva was a highly physical affair, culminating in a late sending-off. The green-and-white of Maccabi won the day, with 2-0 victory courtesy of Dani Pitussi who snatched both goals.

Hapoel Tel Aviv dispatched Hapoel Haifa at Bloomfield 4-1 and Hapoel Holon beat hosts Ironi Ashdod 1-0.

The semifinal draw will be made on Channel 1's Mabat Sport tomorrow evening at 8 pm.

Bnei Yehuda 0, Maccabi Tel Aviv 2

Maccabi opened in attacking mood with Avi Cohen hitting the stanchion early in the proceedings, followed by a dangerous thrust by Nir Sivilia in the 23rd minute.

Maccabi had most of the play and opportunities in the first period, but Sergei Gerasimetz was in lively form for the hosts, ending the half with a powerful attempt from the right, then hitting a good effort straight after the interval.

Avi Nimni thudded in Maccabi's first in the 56th minute, rising above the defenders to direct Itzik Zohar's well-flighted ball past Victor Chanov in the Bnei Yehuda goal.

Bnei Yehuda responded with an all-out attack on the visitors' goal, but was unable to break down the well-organized Maccabi defense. Avi Cohen came close again in the 70th minute with the home side stretched forward in attack.

Ten minutes later Eli Driks ensured passage to the semis, latching onto a Nimni pass into the area to beat Chanov.

Mac Petah Tikva 2, Hap Petah Tikva 0

Hapoel fans will have to be satisfied with earning a higher league place than their Maccabi rivals, since the latter will be the city's Cup representatives. The match, like many derby encounters, saw more rough-and-tumble than soccer, with persistent stoppages for fouls.

Maccabi showed more initiative and goal-hunger. Dani Pitussi put the team ahead from a Eyal Beigleibter corner two minutes before the break. Carmelo Mishish almost responded for Hapoel in injury time but fired wide and high.

Pitussi found the goal again in the 84th minute. The match was marred by the 88th-minute dismissal of Benny Kozashvili for a second bookable offense.

Hap. Tel Aviv 4, Hap. Haifa 1

Hapoel Haifa tried to ride the tidal wave that took them to a stunning 3-1 win over Betar Jerusalem in the league at the weekend, but the waters calmed pretty soon, as Tel Aviv, themselves on a roll, took charge.

The hosts went ahead in the sixth minute as a blunder by Haifa 'keeper Yevgeni Puchibalov allowed Shirazi to score.

Nimrod Rosales equalized for Haifa in the 21st minute, when Tel Aviv's man between the posts, Yaroslav Baku, also slipped up in the area. But that was as close as Haifa got to finding their way to the semifinals.

Three further goals for Tel Aviv, Yossi Madar, 27, Roi Hadad (51) and Haim Revivo (61) put the result beyond doubt.

Ironi Ashdod 0, Hap. Holon 1

The host side had most of the possession in this match, and threatened to score on several occasions in the first half.

But as the old Israeli adage goes, if you don't score, you get scored against, held true yet again, as Ashdod's dominance faded in the second half. Holon scored the only goal in the 74th minute.

Itzik Suissa headed down a ball to Ofer Mizrahi, who put the ball past a helpless Bonnie Ginsburg.

Holon then tightened up its defense and managed to avert any danger from Ashdod in the dying minutes, and 2,000 Ashdod supporters made their way home miserably at the late evening hour of 9 pm.

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SECRETARY needed, in English, wordprocessing and Wordmill 5.1. ☎ 03-5467913. 014219

HOUSEHOLD HELP

AU PAIR INTERNATIONAL, Israel's most established agency, needs female live-in/out mother's helpers, houskeepers. Excellent conditions ☎ 03-6190423. 000297

THE "BIG" AGENCY this month is inviting 45-60 lucky Filipinos to work as caregivers. If you are interested in inviting one of your relatives for work as a caregiver for an elderly person with very good conditions, call Rachel now at 03-5469323. 013945

SAVYON, woman for housekeeping work, live-in, previous experience. ☎ 03-5349717.(eve) 014216

URGENTLY NEEDED, male, live-in, with drivers license, housekeeping. ☎ 03-5340073 (H), 03-5632150 014224

PERSONALS

ATTRACTIVE AUSTRALIAN WIDOW, youngish seventy, childless, independent, seeks partner willing to live in Australia. 03-5222686. 014235

VEHICLES

1993 BMW 325I, automatic A/C, extras, 5000km, excellent condition. ☎ 03-5469506. 014098

SHARON AREA
DWELLINGS
RENTALS

SDEROT NITZA, Netanya, sea view, 2, luxurious, fully furnished, 5th floor, elevator. ☎ 03-5441636, 6737338. 014159

HERZLIYA PITUACH, luxurious villa, 350 sqm. built with seperate unit. ☎ 09-984171. 014220

KFAR SHMARYAHU, August, 5 bdrs., garden, near pool, beach. ☎ 09-583832. 014227

SALES

RAANANA, COTTAGE (6), attractive, in desirable location across from park. Tel. 09-902921(eve.). 014117

RAANANA, beautiful 4 rooms, 125sqm + sun porch, improved, A/C, 1st floor, elevator, $220,000. ☎ 03-6420402. 014221

SERVICES
RENOVATING

OLD WOODEN FURNITURE RESTORED. We offer prompt & polite service. Tel 09-925348. 014014

GARDENING

COMPUTERIZED WATER-SYSTEMS for gardens and roofs. GREEN VIEW GARDENS ☎ 09-455990. 013809

REALTY
PLOTS

HERZILYA PITUAH, Galei Techelet, on the cliff overlooking the sea. Exclusive area. FAX 09-574174. Agents' fees will not be paid. 014212

DAN REGION
DWELLINGS
SALES

BAT-YAM, 5 rooms on the sea, partly furnished + appliances. ☎ 03-582782, Fax. 03-5759306.

SITS. VAC.
OFFICE STAFF

TYPIST/ secretary, wordprocessor experience (preferably MS Word), fluent English /Hebrew. Hedes Ltd. Kfar Sava ☎ 09-910526. 014093

SECRETARY/TYPIST for large company in Herzliya, experienced in Word, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., knowledge of Hebrew, references, immediate. ☎ 03-7514212. 014196

HOUSEHOLD HELP

AU PAIR FOR housework and childcare in Raanana. ☎ 09-449791. 014114

LIVE-IN MAID required for housekeeping and childcare (1.5 yrs. old). ☎ 09-576457. 014223

SOUTHERN COAST
SITS. VAC.
HOUSEHOLD HELP

NEEDED WOMAN for housekeeping in Rishon Lezion. ☎ 03-9659344. 014228

هكذا من الأصل

Mac TA's double hopes still alive

DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

DAN REGION

DWELLINGS

SALES

SITS. VAC.

OFFICE STAFF

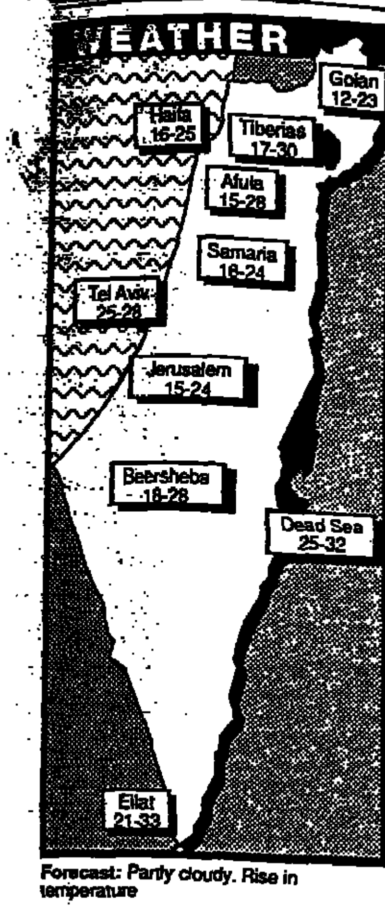
HOUSEHOLD HELP

SOUTHERN COAST

SITS. VAC.

HOUSEHOLD HELP

WEATHER



Forecast: Partly cloudy. Rise in temperature

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	10	50	14	57	rain
Berlin	08	46	16	61	cloudy
Buenos Aires	17	63	23	73	rain
Cairo	14	57	26	79	pcloudy
Chicago	15	59	29	85	cloudy
Copenhagen	03	37	17	63	cloudy
Frankfurt	08	46	20	68	clear
Geneva	05	41	15	59	pcloudy
Helsinki	07	45	16	61	cloudy
Hong Kong	27	81	30	86	clear
Jo'burg	06	43	20	68	clear
Lisbon	09	48	20	68	clear
London	11	52	18	64	clear
Montreal	01	34	12	54	cloudy
Moscow	09	48	19	66	clear

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS22.50 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS444.60 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM

Conducted Tours

HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 882819.

AMIT Women. For a free conducted tour of our installations, call Jerusalem 619222; Tel Aviv 5233154. Hours: 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sun.-Thur.

TEL AVIV

Museums

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. David Reeb: Paintings 1982-94◇Tel Aviv - Temporary Documentation, the visual signs of Tel Avivian culture◇Fernand Léger, 20 paintings and drawings◇16th-19th Cent. European Art◇Impressionism, Post-Impressionism◇Jewish Artists in Europe between the Wars-◇Moshe and Sara Mayer Coll.◇Sculpture◇20th Cent. Modern Masters - Mizne-Blumental Coll.◇Eretz Yisraeli Painting◇Israeli Art◇Video: Gary Hill. HOURS: Sun.-Thur. 10:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Fri. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Sat. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; 7:00-10:00 p.m. **Helena Rubinstein Pavilion for Contemporary Art.** Chanan de Lange - Autobiographic Design. HOURS: Sun.-Thur. 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Fri. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Sat. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. **Education Center,** Tel. 6919155.

ORT. To visit our technological High Schools, call Jerusalem 513141; Tel Aviv 5203222, 5203293; Netanya 823744.

ORT. To visit our technological High Schools, call Jerusalem 513141; Tel Aviv 5203222, 5203293; Netanya 823744.

NA'AMAT (P.W.). Visit our projects: Tel Aviv, 6910791; Jerusalem, 244878.

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Rina Pharm, 31 David Yellin, 383788; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 272315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.

Tel Aviv: Briut, 28 King George, 5283731; Afarsemon, 110 Yehuda Halevi, 5613010. Till 3 a.m. Thursday: Ben-Yehuda, 142 Ben-Yehuda, 5223535. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 6413730.

Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Clal-Pharm, 114 Ahuza, Ra'anana, 910211.

Netanya: Hamagen, 13 Weizmann, 822985.

Krayot area: Medica, 1 Lehmann, Kiryat Yam, 753899.

Haifa: Hawadi, 7 Hawadi, 510166.

Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, obstetrics, ENT); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (surgery, orthopedics); Bikur Holim (pediatrics); Shaare Zedek (ophthalmology). In case of heart attack, attempted resuscitation, snake bite or scorpion sting, go immediately to nearest hospital.

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics, internal, surgery).

Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100
FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom

In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod* 551333	Karmiel* 988555
Ashkelon 551332	Kfar Sava* 902222
Bat Yam* 5511111	Kiron 9311111
Beersheba* 274767	K. Shmona* 944334
Beit Shemesh 523133	Nahariya* 912333
Dan Region* 5793333	Netanya* 623333
Eilat* 372333	Petah Tikva* 9311111
Hadera* 06-823333	Rehovot* 451333
Haifa* 512233	Rishon* 9642333
Hatzor* 920333	Safed 920333
Holon* 5511111	Tel Aviv* 5460111
Jerusalem* 523133	Tiberias* 790111

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110

Eran – Emotional First Aid. Jerusalem 610303, Tel Aviv 5461111 (children/youth 6961113), Haifa 672222, Beersheba 281128, Netanya 625110, Karmiel 9988410, Kfar Sava 974555, Hadera 346789.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 5234819, 5449191 (men), Jerusalem 514455, Haifa 660111, Eilat 31977.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-325747, for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Emergency dental clinic (24 hours) 02-632303.

FIRE 102
FLIGHTS

24 Hours Flight Information Service: Arrivals only, 03-9731111 (Hebrew), 03-9710000 (English)

CRITIC'S CHOICE

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

IS God really omniscient? Maybe he's an egotistical old Dad? Arthur Miller's comedy *The Creation of the World and Other Business* asks some serious questions about human/divine relations. Amnon Meskin is God. Roni Mendelsson and Limor Goldstein are Adam and Eve and Amir Levi plays Lucifer in the Haifa Theater production directed by Walter Tillemans, director of Belgium's Royal National Theater. Tonight (8:30) on the Wadi Salib stage. (Hebrew)

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

CARL Orff's *Carmina Burana*, one of the most exciting choral pieces ever written, is actually a musical rendition of bawdy medieval Latin poems. Rarely performed here, it will get a reading by the Weimar National Orchestra (Germany) and a choir from Berlin under the baton of Hans-Peter Frank. The program also features Mozart's Mass K.167. Tonight (8) at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, tomorrow (4:30) and next Sunday (8:30) at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, Friday (6) at Beit Gavriel by the Kinneret and Saturday (8:30) at the Roman theater in Caesarea. This presentation is part of the Classic Eden Days Festival.

The Ramat Hasharon Camerata Orchestra is back at the Israel Music Conservatory in Tel Aviv Saturday (8:30) in a program titled *Dances, Waltzes, Women and Wine*. Leonti Wolf leads this all-woman orchestra in selections by Bartok, Johann Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Anderson and Joplin.

The Voice of Music celebrates composer Sergiu Natra's 70th birthday with two festive concerts devoted to his compositions tonight (8:30) at the Israel Music Conservatory in Tel Aviv and tomorrow (4) at the YMCA Concert Hall in Jerusalem. The program features six works by Natra and the performers are the best local chamber musicians around. Tomorrow's concert is also broadcast live on the Voice of Music radio network. Both concerts are free to the public.

The Israel Chamber Orchestra's family concerts continue with *The World of Strings* conducted by Menahem Nebenhaus and narrated by Avi Sarid today (5) and tomorrow (4 and 5) at the Tel Aviv Museum.

DANCE

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

DANCE Stage, the city's big annual dance event, opens Saturday (9) at Jerusalem's Habama Theater. Opening night of this three-day festival features the premiere of Nimrod Freed's *Red in the Eyes*, Sharon Kashi's *Halul* ("Empty") and Sa'ar Magal's *The Boy and the Dolphin*. Sunday and Monday programs are different and vary from the very new to the much more established. Freed's *Red in the Eyes* reaches the Spring-Loaded dance festival at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv next Monday (8:30) performed in one program with *The Boy and the Dolphin* as well as one other work of Magal. Tonight at the Suzanne Dellal Center you can see Noa Dar's *Heads in the Grass* and tomorrow Anat Danieli's *Kisses*.

Sharon Kashi's 'Halul' will be performed in the 3-day Dance Stage at Jerusalem's Habamah Theater. (Gadi Dagon)

TELEVISION

PENNY STARR

IF YOU'RE feeling nostalgic for corny old shows from the '70s and you're home at 4 p.m., tune to the Children's Channel to watch Lindsay Wagner lifting polystyrene rocks as Jaime Summers, *The Bionic Woman*.

On the Discovery Channel there's a repeat of the four-part series about endangered animals. *Animal Traffic* is on at 8 p.m.

Love 'em or hate 'em, the commercials on the New Channel 2 have become a regular topic of conversation, even to the point of giving Hebrew some new expressions. On the New Channel 2 tonight (10:30) there's a live broadcast of the annual awarding of prizes for advertising.

And on Channel 3 Barbara Walters compares late-night talkshow hosts (Johnny Carson and Jay Leno), comediennes (Lucille Ball and Roseanne Arnold), and action stars (John Wayne and Arnold Schwarzenegger). *Barbara Walters Special* is on at 10:55 p.m.

CINEMA

JERUSALEM

CINEMATHEQUE ☎ 724131 **A Perfect World** 7 ★ **Jungle Fever** 9:30 G.G. GIL **Jerusalem Mall (Malha)** ☎ 788448 **Intersection** 1:30, 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ **Schindler's List** 1:30, 5, 8:30 ★ **Pelican Brief** 7, 9:30 ★ **The Secret Garden** 1:30, 4:15 ★ **On Deadly Ground** 1:30, 4:30, 7, 9:45 ★ **Fearless** □ **In the Name of the Father** 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:30 ★ **Baraka** 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ **Wayne's World 2** 1:30, 4:30, 7 JERUSALEM THEATER ☎ 617167 20 Marcus St. **Farewell to My Concubine** 6, 9 ORION OR 1-6 ☎ 252914* 4 Shamai St. **The Piano** □ **Perfect World** □ **Carlito's Way** □ **Naked** □ **The Joy Luck Club** 7, 9:15 ★ **Addams Family Values** □ **Cool Runnings** □ **The Three Musketeers** 7:15, 9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7 ☎ 792799 **Credit Card Reservations** ☎ 794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot **Remains of the Day** 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Malice** □ **The Good Son** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Mrs. Doubtfire** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **The House of Spirits** 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Short Cuts** 5:30, 9 ★ **Little Buddha** 4:15, 7, 9:45 ★ **Aristocats** *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 RON 1-2 ☎ 234704 1 Rabbi Akiva St. **Philadelphia** □ **Ma Saison Preferee** 5, 7:15, 9:30 TORAH OUTREACH PROGRAM ☎ 288968 **Follow Me - The Six Day War** 9, 11, 1, 3, 5

TEL AVIV

RAV-CHEN ☎ 5282288* Dizengoff Center **Malice** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **The Good Son** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Mrs. Doubtfire** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **The House of Spirits** 11, 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Sister Act 2** 11, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 CINEMATHEQUE 1–2 ☎ 6917181 2 Sprinzak St. **Daddy, Come to the Luna Park** 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 ★ **French Cinema Festival** DEKEL ☎ 5443200 94 Yehuda Hamaccabi St. **Philadelphia** 7:30, 9:45 DIZENGOFF 1-3 ☎ 200485 Dizengoff Center **Belle Epoque** □ **The Piano** 11, 1, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Reservoir Dogs** 1, 5:15, 9:45 ★ **Bleu** 11, 3, 7:30 DRIVE-IN ☎ 6423080 **Cool Runnings** 10 p.m. ★ **Sex Film** 12 midnight GAN HA'IR ☎ 5279228 71 Ibn Gabirol St. **In the Line of Fire** 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Striking Distance** 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 GAT ☎ 6967888* 26 Ibn Gabirol St. **Little Buddha** 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 GORDON ☎ 5236992 87 Ben Yehuda St. **The Unbelievable Truth** 6:30, 10 ★ **Trust** 8 HAKOLNOA ZOA HOUSE ☎ 6959341 26 Ibn Gabirol St. **Tales of a Golden Geisha** 5, 7:30, 9:45 G.G. HOD 1–4 ☎ 5228090 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. **Fearless** □ **Pelican Brief** 1:30, 4:45, 7:30, 10 ★ **Wayne's World 2** □ **Benny and Joon** 1:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 LEV 1-4 ☎ 5288288 **Farewell to My Concubine** 11, 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:30 ★ **Naked** 11:15, 2, 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **One False Move** 5:15, 10 ★ **Antonia and Jane** 11:30, 3:15 ★ **Un Coeur en Hiver** 1:15, 7:30 ★ **The Secret Garden** 5 NEW MAXIM ☎ 5287457 48 King George St. **The Fugitive** 7:30, 9:45 RAV-OR 1-5 ☎ 5102674* Opera House **Ma Saison Preferee** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Joy Luck Club** □ **Age of Innocence** □ **Remains of the Day** 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Short Cuts** 5:30, 9 G G. SHAHAF 1-2 ☎ 5271645 Kikar Namir **Schindler's List** 5, 8:45 ★ **Pelican Brief** 5, 7:30, 10 G.G. TAYELET 1-3 ☎ 5177952 2 Yona Hanavi St., **In the Name of the Father** □ **Carlito's Way** □ **Perfect World** 5, 7:30, 10 G.G. TEL AVIV ☎ 5281181 65 Pinsker St. **On Deadly Ground** □ **Intersection** □ **In the Name of the Father** 5, 7:30, 10 TEL AVIV MUSEUM ☎ 6961297 27 Shaul Hamelekh Boulevard **The Unbelievable Truth** 7:45, 10

HAIFA

CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎ 325755 **Age of Innocence** 7, 9:15 ★ **Farewell to My Concubine** 7, 9:30 CINEMATHEQUE ☎ 386246/383424 **Palombella Rossa** 9:30 ORLY **Philadelphia** 6:45, 9:15 RAV-GAT 1-2 ☎ 674311 **Malice** 4:45, 7, 9:15 ★ **The Good Son** 4:45, 7, 9:15 RAV-MOR 1-7 ☎ 416898/8 **Little Buddha** 6:30, 9:15 ★ **The Good Son** □ **Malice** □ **Sister Act 2** 4:45, 7, 9:15 ★ **Sister Act 2** 4:45, 7, 9:15 ★ **Remains of the Day** □ **Philadelphia** 4:30, 6:45, 9:15 ★ **Pelican Brief** 4:30, 6:45, 9:15 RAV-OR 1-3 ☎ 246553 **Short Cuts** 5:30, 9 ★ **Aristocats** *(Hebrew dialogue)* 4:45 ★ **Little Buddha** 6:30, 9:15 ★ **Ma Saison Preferee** 4:45, 7, 9:15

ASHDOD

G.G. GIL **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Intersection** □ **On Deadly Ground** □ **The Good Son** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ **Remains of the Day** 5, 8:30 RON **Blind Side** 7:30, 10 ★ **Pelican Brief** 7:30, 10

ASHKELON

RAV CHEN 1-5 ☎ 711223 **Little Buddha** 4:15, 7, 9:45 ★ **The Good Son** □ **Intersection** □ **Malice** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Schindler's List** 5:30, 9

BAT YAM

RAV CHEN ☎ 5531077 **Schindler's List** 5:30, 9 ★ **Malice** □ **Intersection** □ **The Good Son** 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Little Buddha** 4:15, 7, 9:45 ★ **Pelican Brief** 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Philadelphia** 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Look Who's Talking Now** 5

BEERSHEBA

G.G. ESHEL ☎ 274073 **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 RAV-NEGEV 1-4 ☎ 35278 **Malice** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Remains of the Day** 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Philadelphia** 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Short Cuts** 5:30, 9 ★ **Aristocats** *(Hebrew dialogue)* □ **Surf Ninjas** 11 a.m. ★ **Look Who's Talking Now** □ **Sister Act 2** 5

DIMONA

MOFET **Another Stakeout** 8:30

HADERA

LEV **Schindler's List** 5:15, 9 ★ **On Deadly Ground** 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Remains of the Day** 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Look Who's Talking Now** □ **Aristocats** 5 ★ **Farewell to My Concubine** 6:45, 9:30

HERZLIYA

ACCADIA CINEMA CLUB ☎ 557799 **Farewell to My Concubine** 7, 9:45 COLONY CINEMA 1-2 (MANDARIN) ☎ 6902866 **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Remains of the Day** 5, 7:30, 10 DANIEL **Mrs Doubtfire** 7, 9:30 STAR ☎ 589068 29 Sokolow St. **Intersection** 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Little Buddha** 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ **Cool Running** 5 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:45

KARMIEL

CINEMA 1–3 ☎ 887277 **The Piano** □ **Malice** 7, 9:30 ★ **Pelican Brief** 6:45, 9:30

KFAR SAVA

G.G. GIL **Intersection** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Baraka** □ **Malice** □ **On Deadly Ground** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ **Short Cuts** 5, 8:30

KIRYAT BIALIK

KIRYON **In the Name of the Father** 7, 9:30 ★ **Mrs. Doubtfire** 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ **On Deadly Ground** 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ **Age of Innocence** 7, 9:30 ★ **The Secret Garden** □ **Addams Family Values** 4:45 ★ **Pelican Brief** 7, 9:30 ★ **Wayne's World 2** 4:45, 7 ★ **Schindler's List** 5:45, 9:15 ★ **Look Who's Talking Now** 4:45 ★ **Jungle Book** 4:45 ★ **Intersection** 4:45, 7, 9:30

KIRYAT ONO

MATNAS **The House of Spirits** 7, 9:30 ★ **Surf Ninjas** 5

MIGDAL HA'EMEK

RAV-CHEN **The Joy Luck Club** □ **Pelican Brief** 6:45, 9:30 ★ **Wide Saragossa Sea** 7, 9:30

NAHARIYA

HOD ☎ 920502 **The House of Spirits** 7, 9:30

NESS ZIONA

G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 404729 **Intersection** □ **On Deadly Ground** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:30, 7:15, 10

NETANYA

G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 628452 **Intersection** □ **On Deadly Ground** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ **Pelican Brief** 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 RAV-CHEN 1-4 ☎ 618570 **Malice** □ **The Good Son** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Philadelphia** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Little Buddha** 4:15, 7, 9:45

OR YEHUDA

G.G. GIL **On Deadly Ground** □ **Stolen Diary** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Pelican Brief** 5, 7:15, 10 ★ **Mrs. Doubtfire** 5, 7:15, 9:30

PETAH TIKVA

G.G. HECHAL 1-3 ☎ 9300844 **Intersection** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 5, 7:30, 10 G. G. RAM 1-3 ☎ 9340818 **On Deadly Ground** □ **Belle Epoque** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Remains of the Day** 4:45, 7:15, 10

RA'ANANA

MOFET **Sister Act 2** 7:15, 9:30 PARK **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Intersection** 5, 7:30, 9:30 ★ **Malice** □ **Philadelphia** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **The Good Son** 7:30, 9:30 ★ **Mrs. Doubtfire** 5

RAMAT GAN

RAV-GAN 1-4 ☎ 797121* **Schindler's List** 5:30, 9:15 ★ **Remains of the Day** 7:15, 9:45 ★ **The Good Son** 5, 7:30 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:30, 7, 9:45 ★ **Aristocats** *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 RAV-OASIS 1-3 ☎ 6730687 **Malice** □ **Intersection** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Pelican Brief** 4:30, 7, 9:45

RAMAT HASHARON

KOKHAV **Pelican Brief** 7, 9:30

REHOVOT

CHEN 1–4 ☎ 465979 **Schindler's List** 5:45, 9:15 ★ **Remains of the Day** 7, 9:45 ★ **Belle Epoque** 7:30, 9:30

RISHON LEZION

NA'AMAN ☎ 941522 **Farewell to My Concubine** 7:30, 9:45 RAV-CHEN 1–4 ☎ 9670503/7 **Malice** □ **The Good Son** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Philadelphia** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Little Buddha** 4:15, 7, 9:45 RISHON ☎ 9653230 **Blind Side** 7:30, 10 G.G. RON 1-3 ☎ 9662175 **Age of Innocence** □ **Mrs Doubtfire** □ **Sister Act 2** 5, 7:30, 9:30 HAZAHAV **In the Name of the Father** 4:45, 7:30, 10 ★ **Pelican Brief** 5, 7:15, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30

RISHON NEW IND. AREA

GAL 1-5 ☎ 9619669 **Intersection** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Malice** □ **On Deadly Ground** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Sister Act 2** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Naked** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ STAR 1-4 ☎ 9619985-7 27 Lishinsky St. **The Good Son** 7:30, 10 ★ **Mrs. Doubtfire** 7:30, 10 ★ **Little Buddha** 7:15, 10 ★ **The Unbelievable Truth** 8, 10

UPPER NAZARETH

G.G. GIL **Gross Misconduct** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Double Exposure** □ **Intersection** □ **Quick** □ **On Deadly Ground** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Remains of the Day** 5, 7:15, 10 * **Tone phone credit card reservations: Jerusalem, (02) 794477: Tel Aviv and Ramat Gan, ☎ (03) 5252244**

TELEVISION

■ CHANNEL 1

6.30 News in Arabic **6.45** Cartoons **7.00** Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV

8.00 Program Details **8.05** Keep Fit **8.15** Arithmetic **8.40** History of Eretz Yisrael **8.55** Judaism: Keshet v'anan **9.15** Natural Science: Let's Look Up **9.40** Pretty Butterfly **10.15** Captain Cook – series on James Cook, one of the discoverers of the Pacific Islands **11.10** A Look At Nature **11.20** Science and Technology **11.40** French – Avec plaisir **11.55** The Environment **12.10** Mathematics **12.30** Mathematics for Bagrut **13.00** Science and Technology – Biological Revolution **13.25** Computers **14.00** Stories of King Babar **14.30** The Wonder Years **15.00** Zombit

■ CHANNEL 1

15.35 Winnie the Pooh – cartoon dubbed in Hebrew **16.00** News update **16.20** Legends of King Solomon **16.30** The Simpsons **17.00** A New Evening **17.35** Was It or Wasn't It – original drama mixing reality with imagination **17.55** Film on ways of using clay in animation **18.15** News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18.35 The Stars of Tomorrow **19.00** News in Arabic

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19.30 Real Time **20.00** Mabat **21.00** Straight and to the Point **21.30** Postmortem – program on newspapers **21.40** Night Studio – social issues and current events hosted by Meni Pe'er **22.30** Film: Sweet Dreams (1985) – Musical biography of one of the greatest country-and-western singers, Patsy Cline. Film looks at the conflict she had between her career and success and the demand of her husband that she be a housewife. Starring Jessica Lange, Ed Harris. **23.00** Late-night news **23.05** Continuation of film

■ THE NEW CHANNEL 2

14.00 Star Trek – The Next Generation **15.00** Animated series **15.30** Tin Tin – animated series **16.00** Folktales – seen from the present-day point of view **17.00** News **17.05** Doug **17.30** Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **18.00** Clips With Love – with Avri Gilad **19.00** NBA Action – weekly magazine **19.30** Kolbodek **20.00** News **20.30** Hagashash Hahiver – comedy **21.00** Live – Dan Shilon Hosts **22.30** The Stars of Advertising – Live broadcast from the Jerusalem Theater of the annual awarding of prizes for advertising **23.30** News **23.35** Continuation of advertising prize ceremony **00.05** Blackadder – British comedy

■ JORDAN TV (unofficial)

17.30 French programs **19.00** News in French **19.15** Classical music **19.30** News in Hebrew **19.45** Documentary **20.00** News in Arabic **20.30** Too Close For Comfort **21.10** Best of Magic **22.00** News in English **22.20** Poldark (drama)

■ MIDDLE EAST TV

14.00 The 700 Club **14.55** Film: The Private Life of Henry VIII – Henry VIII of England's relentless pursuit of love and of an heir. Starring Charles Laughton, Elsa Lanchester **16.30** Mighty Mouse **17.20** Dangermouse **17.45** Superbook **18.10** Hart To Hart **19.10** Rescue 911 **20.00** World News Tonight (Arabic) **20.30** CNN Headline News **21.00** Wings **21.30** Matlock **22.20** Murder She Wrote **23.10** The 700 Club **00.00** Film: The Private Life of Henry VIII (rpt)

CABLE

■ FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8.00 Local broadcast **9.00** Attitudes **9.45** The Young and the Restless **10.30** Guests in the Living Room **11.00** Major Dad **11.30** Antonella **12.15** Pasquale's Kitchen **12.40** Falcon Crest **13.35** Perfect Strangers **14.05** Young Indiana Jones **15.00** Trapper John **15.50** Murder She Wrote **16.40** American Dreamer **17.05** New WKRP in Cincinnati **17.30** Love Boat **18.20** Neighbors **18.45** The Young and The Restless **19.30** Local broadcast **20.00** Antonella **20.50** Falcon Crest **21.40** Married with Children **22.10** Melrose Place **22.55** Barbara Walters Special **23.45** Designing Women **00.15** Quantum Leap **1.00** Hunter

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

10.30 Swaroopam – Indian movie **12.10** Light of Day (1987) (rpt) **14.00** A Tiger's Tale (1988) – romantic comedy about a young man who falls in love with his best girlfriend's mother **15.35** The Fourth Protocol (1987) (rpt) **17.35** Shirley Valentine (1989) (rpt) **19.30** How I Got Into College (1989) (rpt) **21.00** Poison Ivy (1992) – Drew Barrymore plays a high-schooler of loose morals who tries to catch the eye of a school friend's married father **22.30** Manhattan (1979) (rpt) **00.05** Casual Sex (1988) (rpt) **1.30** Frances (1982) (rpt)

■ CHILDREN'S CHANNEL (6)

6.30 Cartoons **9.30** Cartoons **10.05** Casper And Friends **10.30** Piggsburg Pigs **11.00** Thundercats **11.30** Punky Brewster **12.00** Macgyver **13.00** Kofiko **13.30** Cartoons **14.05** Ghostbusters **14.30** Feivel's American Tails **15.05** Thundercats **15.30** Supergran **16.00** The Bionic Woman **17.00** Wonder Why **17.30** Cartoons **18.05** Casper and Friends **18.30** Piggsburg Pigs **19.00** Perfect Strangers **19.35** 21 Jump St.

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

20.35 I Love Lucy **21.00** Never Mind the Quality, Feel the Width **21.30** Do You Remember Dolly Bell? (1981) – drama by Yugoslavian director Emir Kusturica focuses on the coming-of-age of a young boy in love with a French movie star in the peaceful Sarajevo of the 1960s (104 mins) **23.15** The Avengers **00.05** Woman of the Year (1941) (rpt)

■ DISCOVERY CHANNEL (8)

6.00 Open University: Social Sciences **11.00** Halting the Fire **12.00** First Tuesday **12.30** Whales Weep Not **13.00** The Monk and the Honeybee **13.30** Festivals of the World **14.00** Open University **16.00** Halting the Fire **17.00** First Tuesday **17.30** Whales Weep Not **18.00** Open University **20.00** Animal Traffic **21.00** New Explorer **21.30** Wild South **22.00** Submarines **23.00** Extra Dimension **00.00** Open University

■ SUPER CHANNEL

7.00 Supershop **7.30** NBC Network News **8.00** ITN World News Live **8.15** European Business Today **8.30** CNBC Business Tonight Live **9.00** ITN World News **9.15** Market Wrap **9.30** NBC News **10.00** Super Shop **13.00** Today's Business Live **13.30** FT Reports **14.00** Today **14.30** FT Business Today **15.00** Today **15.30** The Money Wheel **18.30** FT Business Tonight **19.00** Today **20.00** ITN World News **20.30** Executive Lifestyles **21.00** Dateline **22.00** Supersports **23.00** ITN World News **23.30** FT Business Tonight **23.50** Market Wrap **00.00** The Tonight Show with Jay Leno **1.00** Real Personal **1.30** NBC Network News Live **2.00** Equal Time **2.30** Talkin' Jazz

■ STAR PLUS

7.30 Neighbors **8.00** Santa Barbara **9.00** The Bold and The Beautiful **9.30** Donahue **10.30** Oprah Winfrey **11.30** Today's Gourmet **12.00** Mr Rogers' Neighborhood **12.30** Grimms Fairy Tales **13.00** Force Five **13.30** Degrassi Junior High **14.00** El Extreme Close Up **14.30** Neighbors **15.00** M*A*S*H **15.30** Miniseries: Around The World in 80 Days (part 3 of 3) **17.30** The Bold and The Beautiful **18.00** Santa Barbara **19.00** Crystal Maze **20.00** Capital City **21.00** M*A*S*H **21.30** E! Features **22.00** Neighbors **22.30** Crystal Maze **23.30** Capital City **00.30** Donahue

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6.06 Waking to Music **9.00** Purcell: O Come Ye Sons of Art for Queen Mary's Birthday; Haydn: Sonata in G HOB 40/16 (Richter); Respighi: Trittico Botticelliano (Orpheus CO) ±**10.00** From the World's Concert Halls – Carinthian Summer Festival 3.8.93. Works by Heinrich Isaac, Thomas Stolzer and others ±**11.15** Debussy: Sonata for cello and piano (Van Kampen, Brown) ±**11.30** Alban Berg Quartet – Mozart: Quartet in D K575; Bartok: Quartet no 6; Mozart: Quartet in F K590. Brahms: Violin concerto in D (Kennedy/London PO/Tennstedt) **14.06** (1) Arrangements of Beatles songs. (2) Weill-Anderson: Cry the Beloved Country, excerpts **16.00** Brahms: Piano concerto no 2 (Brendel/Berlin PO/Abbado); Bruckner: Symphony no 4 "Romantic" (Berlin PO/Muti) **18.00** Keys **19.05** Schubert: Im Frühling, Serenade, for voice and piano (White, Johnson); Brahms: Serenade no 1 in D op 11 (Haifa SO/Sperber) **20.03** Classic Eden Days – Staatskapelle Weimar Orchestra, Ernst Senff Berlin Choir and soloists, cond. Hans Peter Frank. Live broadcast from Jerusalem International Convention Center. Carl Orff: Carmina Burana; Mozart: Trinity Mass **23.00** Domino

■ RADIO 1

6.16 Mishna, Gemara and Tora **7.00** News in English **7.15** News in French **7.30** Hebrew songs **8.05** Dial **9.05** It's Open **10.05** Teleradio **11.05** Finger on the Pulse **12.05** Industry **13.00** News and program in English **13.30** News and program in French **14.05** Youth programs **15.30** Ethnic music **16.05** Musical quiz **17.00** News in English **17.02** News in French **17.05** Yiddish songs **18.05** Religious programs **20.00** Evening news **20.50** Judaism **22.05** Words that Try to Touch **23.05** Hebrew songs

■ RADIO 2

6.06 This Morning – news magazine **8.05** Another Matter **9.05** Popular songs **10.05** It's All Talk **12.05** Midday – news, commentary, music **14.05** Magic Moments **15.05** Foreign Affairs **15.45** Foreign Press **16.05** The Color of Money **17.05** Five After the News **18.05** Today – newsreel **19.05** The Arabs of Israel **20.05** Sports broadcast **21.05** News headlines **21.15** Sports broadcast, continued **23.05** Night Flight **00.05** Midnight Magazine **00.30** Night Flight, continued **1.05** Into the Night **5.05** First Light

■ RADIO 3

Music all day and night

■ REKA

18.00 News in English **18.15** News in French **20.00** News in Russian

■ ARMY RADIO

5.02 Good Morning IDF **6.00** Announcements **6.05** Broadcast University – The evolution of love **6.30** Good Morning Israel **7.15** A New Morning **8.00** Good Morning Israel **9.05** It's Difficult in the Morning **10.05** Wafers **10.49** Today's entertainment **11.05** Right Now **13.00** Midday News **13.15** Something for Midday **14.05** Rock magazine **15.05** Someone to Talk To **16.00** An Hour Before **17.00** Good Evening Israel **18.05** Over the Horizon **18.45** Army and security **19.05** Music **20.00** Evening news **20.30** Psychology **21.05** Check 5 **22.05** All That Jazz **23.05** This Was the Day **00.10** Night Birds **2.00** We Don't Want to Sleep

■ ARMY ON WHEELS

7.05 The State on the Way **9.05** Hebrew songs **11.05** Sun **13.05** Air Conditioning **14.05** Battery **15.05** Moving **16.05** Driving Wisely **18.05** Program with Lea Oz **20.05** Traffic Island **22.05** Good Night

Drive carefully
A little courtesy won't kill you!

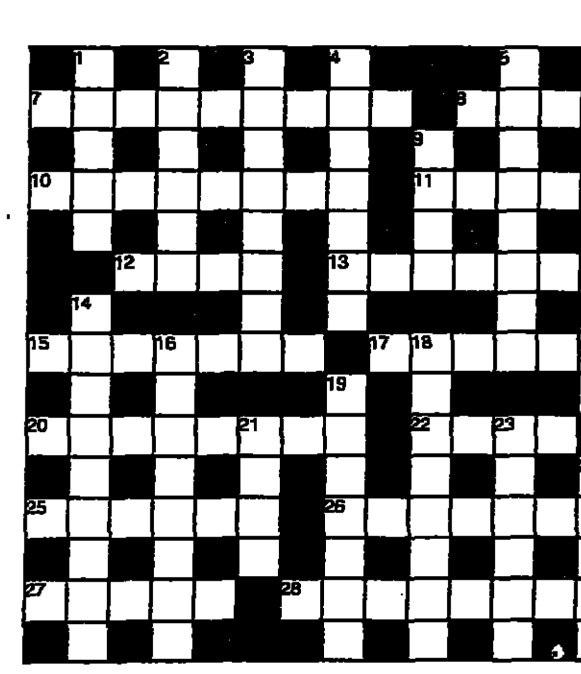
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

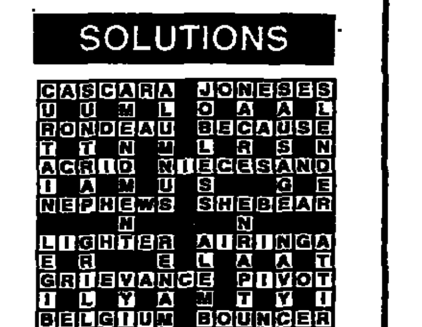
7 Anything but a far cry from danger (5,4)
8 British assistance bordering on the uniform (5)
10 Confusion resulting from underworld gaining command (8)
11 Irritable because irritated after getting the second letter (6)
12 Central feature of a nasty eye (4)
13 Free collection of chess pieces unboxed (3,5)
15 Let us accommodate one politician and hangers-on (7)
17 Moving as quickly as that cat on a tin roof? (7)
20 Switching words every now and then (3,3,2)
22 Sort letters (4)
25 Ali Baba is lacking a degree produced by his acquitted captors maybe (6)
26 Melancholy airs of the Royal Horse Guards (3,5)
27 Works in which the unwary victim is caught (5)
28 Invalid food favoured by the Archers in their tuber patch? (9)

DOWN

1 Everybody home but fagged (3,2)
2 Military protection Cortes ordered (6)
3 Using litmus to provide proof positive (4,4)
4 A budding businessman (7)
5 To put in a mail order is a dead loss (5,3)
6 Hose a terracotta vessel in an awkward situation (5,4)
9 Stand by a reservation (4)
14 Willingly permit land to remain uncultivated (3,6)
16 Co-operate with production of drama and dance (4,4)
18 How lots may be sold when dropping off (2,3,3)
19 Yet to be stockpiled (2,5)
21 Mild expletive journalists substitute for a strong one (4)
23 Trivial attempt to support the Euro TV system (6)
24 Do well at one's first riding lesson (3,2)



SOLUTIONS



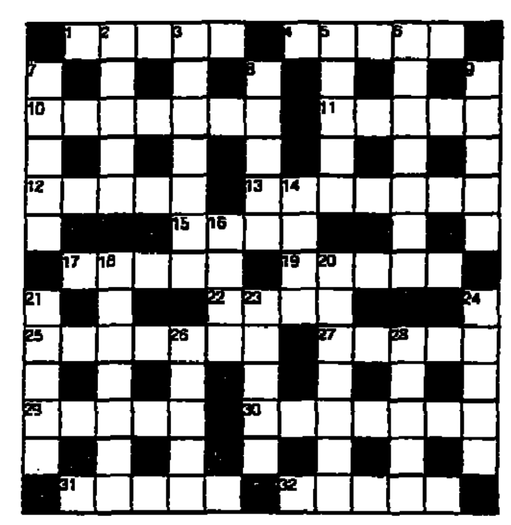
CASCARA JONESES
U U M L O A A L
RONDEAU BECAUSE
T T N M L R S N
ACRID NIECESAND
I A M U S G E
NEPHEWS SHEBEAR
N N
LIGHTER AIRINGA
E R E L A A T
GRIEVANCE PIVOT
I L Y A M T Y I
BELGIUM BOUNCER
L E N E I R U E
ENRAGED CHEATED

Saturday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 5 Pizza, 8 Ones' mind, 9 Zonal, 10 Barbaric, 11 Razor, 14 Zoo, 16 Retina, 17 Wherry, 18 Pre, 20 Zombi, 24 Zaniness, 25 Hobby, 26 Zeppelin, 27 Grief.

DOWN: 1 Lobby, 2 Zebra, 3 Smear, 4 Indigo, 6 Idolater, 7 Zealotry, 12 Zero hour, 13 Zimbabwe, 14 Zap, 15 Owe, 19 Reaper, 21 Zippy, 22 Jelly, 23 Using.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Money bag (5)
4 Walked through water (5)
10 Attack (7)
11 Sequence (5)
12 The devil (5)
13 Try (7)
15 Swirl in a current (4)
17 Academy of art (5)
19 Freshwater fish (5)
22 Large jug (4)
25 Colleague (7)
27 Perfect insect form (5)
29 Kingdom (5)
30 Unsettled type (7)
31 Research (5)
32 Odd (5)

DOWN

2 Overturn (5)
3 Refused recognition (7)
5 Approximately (5)
6 Occurring naturally in area (7)
7 Swamp (5)
8 Valuable violin (5)
9 Hackneyed (5)
14 Lebanese port (4)
16 Action (4)
18 Scold severely (7)
20 Opening (7)
21 Yellowish earth pigment (5)
23 Weak and emaciated (5)
24 Anxiety (5)
26 Has weapons (5)
28 Sacrificial table (5)

Knesset panel supports idea for gov't inquiry into disappearence of Yemenite children

EVELYN GORDON

THE government should set up a formal commission of inquiry into the disappearance of Yemenite immigrant children in the 1950s, most members of the Knesset interior committee demanded yesterday.

Judge Moshe Shalgi, head of a public committee set up in 1988 to look into the issue, told the MKs that he expected the committee to finish its work in about three months. Interior committee chairman Yehoshua Matza (Likud) therefore said he would not submit a formal request to the government for a commission of inquiry until the Shalgi report is published.

A 1985 request by the interior committee for such a commission was ignored.

Shalgi told the committee that he is investigating 476 cases: 197 which had been investigated by an earlier committee set up in 1968, and the remainder new cases. His committee had confirmed the findings of the earlier committee in all 197 cases, he said, noting that most of these children had died. It had also determined that 199 of the children mentioned in the new cases had died of illness. Another 12 disappeared before the parents arrived in Israel, and it is not clear if these children ever reached the country, while 68 cases are still under investigation. He expects about 40 of these cases to remain unsolved.

"In all the cases we have investigated so far, we have not found any evidence that would indicate criminal action [on the part of the authorities]," he stressed.

Several MKs reacted furiously to this statement.

"They took the children and buried them, without informing the parents, without asking the parents – that is stealing bodies. That's a serious crime," exploded Aryeh Gamliel (Shas).

Furthermore, he noted, the 1968 committee had found that four children were adopted.

"Why doesn't the committee investigate this matter?" he demanded. "If even one child was stolen for adoption, that's enough of a crime!"

"This committee hasn't done the work that needs to be done, and hasn't solved anything," he continued, noting that by its own admission, the committee had not investigated the question of who was responsible for the fact that the parents were ignorant of their children's fate. "[The committee] is only interested in whether there's a piece of paper relating to the [fate of the] child... the committee didn't speak with people; it only spoke with papers."

Benny Temkin (Meretz) said the pain suffered by the Yemenite community was so great that only a formal commission of inquiry was sufficient.

"They have to know that the state made the maximum effort," he said.

Dov Levitan, a researcher from Bar-Ilan University who has done two studies on the matter, said that in total there were about 650 known cases of disappearances.

"I have no doubt that about 90% of these children died," he said. However, he added, that still left 60-80 children unaccounted for.

Levitan also said that the only way to check the death notices on which the Shalgi committee is basing its conclusions is to open a sample of the graves, since there are known cases where the person buried in a given grave is not the person listed on the burial certificate.

Several of the MKs also said they knew of cases where various documents appeared to have been falsified. Avigdor Kahalani (Labor), for instance, cited the case of a boy whose parents told him he was adopted, but the name on his birth certificate was that of his adoptive rather than natural parents. Several also mentioned cases where the family had received a draft notice when the missing child would have turned 18.

Police deny reports Meshulam left country

RAINE MARCUS

REPORTS on radio and television that Uzi Meshulam has left the country for "somewhere in Europe" are apparently untrue, senior police officers said last night.

Messages to reporters by Meshulam's spokespersons, Ora and Natan Shifris, that the self-styled rabbi is now in Europe to advance the cause of the "missing Yemenite children," are "tendentious," said one officer.

Meshulam, wanted by police for questioning, would be arrested at the airport if he tried to leave under his own name.

Officially police would only say that "while we refuse to comment on Uzi Meshulam, we advise the press not to fall into a trap."

Neighbors in the street where Meshulam and around a hundred of his followers are holed up in their "fortress" also doubted that he had left the country.

"Trucks full of fruit, vegetables, rice and other supplies are still arriving and the house and street is still packed with his supporters," said one resident. "If he had left the country why would his supporters still be around?"

Neighbors will refuse to accept any agreement that allows Meshulam or his supporters to carry on living on the street.

"When the police do eventually act they will not arrest all those lunatics at the house," said the resident. "We are also afraid of acts of vengeance. Our patience is wearing thin – time is against us and Meshulam is actually gaining supporters."

Meanwhile Meshulam's armed supporters continue to film anyone arriving near the house and a long-range video camera on the roof photographs neighbors' activities. Last week a *Yediot Aharonot* photographer was beaten up by Meshulam's supporters.

Ramon: We haven't made any concessions to Shas

MICHAL YUDELMAN

Haim Ramon sits between Mapam's Haim Oron (left) and the Citizens Rights Movement's Ran Cohen at the official opening of his list's Histadrut elections campaign yesterday in Jerusalem. (Isaac Harari)

MK Haim Ramon yesterday vehemently denied having made any concessions in exchange for Shas's joining the Ramon-Meretz list for the Histadrut elections.

Ramon said the list had adopted Meretz's platform "which we copied word for word, and did not change a single thing or give up a single principle. Abortions were not mentioned there before and they are not mentioned now."

Ramon appeared at a press conference with MK Anat Maor, his list's candidate for Na'amat secretary-general, and her No. 2, Ruth Resnik, formerly of the Citizens Rights Movement, who stated that they would continue fighting for women's rights and equality, regardless of Shas.

Ramon insisted that Shas agreed to a status quo in all religious affairs and that if the Mofet club chain operates on Friday nights and holidays, it would continue to do so. However, the agreement with the Ramon-Meretz list which Shas is circulating states that "religious and Tora activity" would be deepened in all Histadrut institutions and plants, and promises synagogues and kosher food in work places.

Ramon did confirm his agreement to appoint a Shas man, Shlomo Dayan, as Histadrut rabbi, but noted that such a position had already existed and accused Labor of offering Shas much more than the Ramon-Meretz list.

Ramon said that he did not come as the two women's babysitter, but because they forced him to do so. Maor and Resnik admitted this, noting that as politicians they wanted him to attend so he would be committed to their election promises as well, as future Histadrut secretary-general.

Maor said that she intended to continue fighting religious coercion and for women's rights to an abortion, but via Knesset legislation and not in the Histadrut, where abortion and other women's issues are not mentioned in the Meretz platform, because they do not pertain to the Histadrut.

She said that Na'amat's main battle will focus on equal pay for equal work, and eliminating discrimination against women. She said she would not agree to be closed into "a women's ghetto – which is what Na'amat is today – and will demand representation for women in the Histadrut's central committee and trade union section.

"No longer will union leaders and others be chosen in smoke-filled, all-male conference rooms. Na'amat and women's activity will not be restricted to services alone."

The Israel Women's Network, the umbrella organization for women's groups, bodies and organizations, yesterday expressed anger at Meretz's "renouncing of women's rights in exchange for haredi votes in the Histadrut elections."

Commenting on the changes in the Ramon-Meretz list in issues related to women, their rights and promotion, the network said that "Ramon's statement that these matters are taken care of by Na'amat anyway tries to disguise his folding in face of Shas's haredi ideology, which is opposed to equality."

The network noted that when Meretz decided to join Shas, the Citizens Rights Movement activist Dr. Tzofia Mahler was disqualified from heading Na'amat's Tel Aviv list because of her feminist positions. Moreover, Meretz replaced the only two women candidates heading lists for labor councils in the face of Shas's dictates,

Peled: Likud-Tsomet list basis for Jewish-Zionist nationalist party

MICHAL YUDELMAN

TSOMET MK Moshe Peled said yesterday that Tsomet had joined the Likud list for the Histadrut elections in order to form the basis for a united Zionist party to run in the next Knesset elections.

Speaking at a Tel Aviv press conference Peled, No. 2 on the Likud-Tsomet list, called on the right-wing and Shas not to "go along with Shas and the left-wing's lie. This is a political, national battle and the left-wing is trying to deceive the entire public again. Everyone knows that Ramon cares nothing about the workers and is only interested in himself and his burning political career."

List leader MK Ya'acov Shamai (Likud) said he had been the first to coin the elections slogan "keep politics out of the Histadrut." But he said the Likud had been forced to change its line, since the other parties have turned the campaign into a political battle. From now on, he said, the Likud will emphasize the incongruous mixture of impossible elements in Ramon's list.

According to the Likud's polls, Shamai said, Labor will get 34 percent, Ramon 31% and Likud-Tsomet 29%, which means neither list can form a coalition without the Likud.

Shamai said that neither Haberfeld nor Ramon would make any changes in the Histadrut, noting that Ramon "has no understanding of Histadrut related issues and problems. He himself admits that his real intention is to establish a central party and go onwards to the government. This is not a man who will handle the workers' problems."

KNESSET BRIEFS

Longer school day sought

The school day should be extended to eight hours, according to a bill approved in preliminary reading yesterday. The bill was proposed by Meir Sheetrit (Likud). Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said that while the government supported expanding the school day, and was preparing its own initiative on the matter, it considered Sheetrit's proposal, which would cost over NIS 1 billion, excessive.

Abolish Law of Return

The Law of Return should be abolished, Avraham Ravitz (United Tora Judaism) said yesterday, since it is just being exploited by non-Jews wishing to enter the country. Ravitz said that Interior Ministry figures show 29 percent of 1993's immigrants declared themselves to be non-Jewish, and it is estimated that at least an additional 10 percent who declared themselves Jewish really are not. The plenum voted to discuss the matter in the immigration and absorption committee.

Evelyn Gordon

Shas dismisses critics of partnership with Meretz

HERB KEINON

SHAS – under heavy fire from Ashkenazi haredi circles for its partnership with Meretz in the Histadrut elections – returned fire yesterday, saying this criticism is only meant to divert attention from the fact that Ashkenazi haredi schools are barring Sephardi girls.

Since Shas joined with Meretz on Haim Ramon's Histadrut list, the party has come under a barrage of criticism from the haredi press, especially Rabbi Eliezer Schach's daily *Yated Ne'eman*.

Schach, Degel Hatora's spiritual leader, published an open letter in *Yated* last week blasting the coalition, saying that "anyone who says 'Shema Yisrael' and then supports this list is bearing false witness against himself."

The letter, signed by the two other halachic leaders in the non-hassidic Ashkenazi haredi world, Shlomo Zalman Aurebach and Shalom Yosef Elyashiv, termed the coalition a "*scandal*" and a "great desecration of God's name."

The rabbis also took a swipe at Shas patron Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, writing, "We cannot believe that, God forbid, there is someone learned in Tora who would support this merger."

The Shas daily *Yom Leyom* published a full page announcement yesterday that read: "Moshe Gafni and Degel Hatora activists have started a slander campaign against Shas which is running for the Histadrut, while Shas's only concern is to get kashrut and Shabbat observance for thousands of workers.

"At the same time, thousands of God-fearing Jewish girls are fighting to remove the evil decree of the independent education system not to accept them into Beit Ya'acov schools, with their only sin being that they were born to Sephardi parents."

The announcement, signed by "hurting mothers and fathers," asks: "Is not the Degel Hatora and *Yated Ne'eman* campaign against Shas meant to serve as a 'fig leaf' to cover the private campaign they are waging against the daughters of Israel, and to divert public opinion from the truth?"

Yom Leyom, in its lead editorial yesterday, said those charging that joining up with Meretz and Ramon is treason to God and Tora are the same who "were partners in the Histadrut, enjoyed the *benefits, and did not lift a finger to* protect the Jewishness of the voters."

Degel Hatora MK Avraham Ravitz denied that Sephardi girls are being barred from Beit Ya'acov seminaries. "We are carrying out integration of the schools," Ravitz said. He added that in some cases Sephardi girls are referred to other schools so that the integration is maintained, and the classes do not become overwhelmingly Sephardi.

Household water prices to rise by 7-10%

EVELYN GORDON

WATER prices for household consumers will rise by 7%-10%, the Knesset finance committee decided yesterday.

The new price will be NIS 1.85 per cu.m., up from NIS 1.68, for the first eight cu.m.; NIS 2.77, up from NIS 2.52, for the next seven cu.m.; and NIS 4.10, up from NIS 4, for each cubic meter after that.

The price hike was passed by the coalition at the Treasury's request. The Treasury said the increase was justified by rising costs.

However, opposition MKs termed the rise "robbery," since the local authorities pay Mekorot only NIS 0.90 per cu.m. They are therefore charging the consumer two to four times what they pay, they said.

The committee also raised the price of water for gardening, from NIS 1.68 to NIS 1.85 per cu.m.

Water prices for hotels will remain unchanged at NIS 1.14.

Labor leaders deny cabinet reshuffle in the works

SARAH HONIG

TOP Labor officials, including Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, denied reports yesterday that a cabinet reshuffle is already in the works, although it has been clear for many weeks that one is inevitable.

Peres categorically refuted suggestions that high-level consultations were held recently on replacing Haim Ramon in the Health Ministry and adding yet another Labor minister to the present Labor representation in the government.

Peres said that while a cabinet reshuffle might come at some point, "there have absolutely been no deliberations at this point. The matter is hardly a pressing one, or one that would need to be attended to prior to the Histadrut elections and during the prime minister's absence."

Nevertheless, the Labor party had been abuzz with anticipation even prior to Ramon's resignation, and especially after his decision to run against Labor in the Histadrut race. This made his return to the government all the less likely and rekindled ambitions among a number of would-be ministers in the Labor Knesset faction.

Labor secretary-general Nissim Zvilli, who also denied that there has been any special activity on the subject in recent days, stressed that apart from the vacancy created by Ramon, "there is yet another opening. Meretz already has one minister per each three MKs, which is more than the ratio Labor enjoys. Shas was promised the same ratio as Meretz, which increased demands in Labor for yet another minister as well, to make sure that the Labor voice in the government does not diminish by comparison."

It is seen as axiomatic in Labor that whoever the party's two new ministers are, one would have to be close to Rabin, while the other will have to represent the rival Peres camp to maintain the balance between them.

On the Peres side, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin has been mentioned along with MKs Avraham Burg and Haggai Merom, all members of the same dovish circle to which Ramon belonged.

Other ministerial candidates, generally identified with the Rabin camp, are Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur and MKs Rafi Edri and Ephraim Sneh. Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet has also long been campaigning for an upgraded portfolio.

3 remanded for alleged role in air-gun shootings

RAINE MARCUS

THREE young men in their early 20's suspected of conducting an air-gun shooting spree through the *streets of Tel Aviv and Ramat* Gan Sunday night were remanded in custody for seven days in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday.

But police are still investigating the incident, which left 20 people slightly wounded, since several suspects deny all connection to it.

On Monday, two 17-year-olds were remanded in custody. Moshe Aloni, representing the weapon's owner, said the air rifle had been stolen from the bomb shelter in his client's home, and denied knowing anything about the shootings.

Yesterday Eitan Elbank, allegedly the owner of the car used in the shootings, denied any part in the incident. Lawyer Sassi Gez maintained that eyewitnesses had not written down the license plate numbers of the car, and that initially other Fiat Unos were examined by police.

Police insisted that Elbank not only drove the car, but also fired *some of the shots. However,* eyewitnesses and victims gave inconsistent reports regarding the number of passengers in the vehicle. One victim is still in the hospital, suffering from a gunshot wound.

Gez asked Judge Miriam Sokolov to ignore public outrage as a result of the shootings and concentrate on the evidence, and to pay attention to inconsistencies.

One of the five suspects in custody is expected to turn state's evidence, said police, and has told them full details of the incident, and what part each suspect played.

The suspects, who fired a total of 50 pellets from the air rifle, acted out of "momentary madness," said the informer.

Ilan Halfon, represented by lawyer Eli Cohen, admitted that he had fired the gun in an open space but denied shooting at people or traveling in the car. "My client is cooperating with police and has given an alibi," said Cohen.

Police presented Sokolov with confidential information largely based on their informer's testimony, but lawyers expressed doubts as to the credibility of such evidence, "especially if the informer has a personal interest."

The third suspect, Eyal Hershko, was brought into court separately but his lawyer complained Sokolov had already decided he would be detained with the others before hearing defense arguments.

Hershko, said his lawyer, knows nothing about the shooting incident and could not have fired the gun since he was released from IDF service after a doctor ruled he suffered from a hand disability and could not use a weapon.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, ten of hearts, ten of diamonds and eight of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 1, 2, 17, 27, 35 and 44, while the additional number was 30.

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